A DESCRIPTIVE INVENTORY OF THE PLUMAS-SIERRA BI-COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM FROM 1970 TO 1972

KAY KENFIELD

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A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Department of Librarianship

California State University, San Jose

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

by

Kay Kenfield

August, 1972

Connoisseur
PARCHMENT
100% COTTON FIBER
U.S.A.

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND CLARIFICATION OF THE TITLE USED

The state of California has supported county free libraries for a number of years. Throughout that time each county area has faced a specific and varied set of problems. Urbanization and suburban sprawl, coupled with rapid shifts in areas of population densities, have, in recent years, absorbed most of the emphasis of library service studies. However, they are not the only areas with problems. The rural areas are trapped within their own particular set of problems just as surely as are the cities.

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. The purpose of this study is to describe the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System, and how it provides library service to its far-flung rural constituency.

Importance of the study. The emergence of library services in Plumas and Sierra counties has a significant role in enriching the future growth and development of these two counties. Library services in such rural areas are essential to the community in that they are an important counter to the natural isolation of the

area from metropolitan activities and limited radio and television reception. It was intended that this study will help to shift some attention from urban areas and focus it on rural areas and their problems.

Limitation of the study. This study is limited to the library system which serves Plumas and Sierra counties; it is limited to the records and information available in the system itself and to what current information is available in the field.

Procedures followed in the study. As in any descriptive inventory of this type, this study relied heavily on primary sources. Secondary sources are included when ever information is available through them.

Primary sources. Much of the material concerning the system as a whole was drawn directly from the records of the system itself, and was secured from the main branch, Quincy Public Library. Other data on the main branch itself, was secured from an application to the Library Services and Construction Act, Title II, written by Mr. Darrell Payne, Plumas County Engineer and Planning Director. Mr. Payne also supplied the plans for the new Community Center - Public Library from which information on the main branch library was secured. Other primary sources included interviews with Mr. Darrell Payne, the Acting Head Librarian for Plumas-Sierra Bi-County

Public Library System, Mrs. Dorothy Egbert, and upon her retirement, Temporary Acting Head Librarian, Mrs. Margaret Mitchell, and later, the newly arrived Head Librarian, Mr. John Little. Acting Librarians in several of the outlying branches were also interviewed.

Secondary sources. Many of the statistics quoted in this study were secured from secondary sources. The sources varied from the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Farm Advisors' Office to Library studies such as the one done by Mr. Edward A. Wight and the recent population census.

Organization of the remainder of the Thesis. A brief review of the literature available upon the subject of this Thesis appears after this chapter, followed by a brief description of the history and background of the region served by the library system. A summary of the foregoing, followed by selected appendixes and a bibliography, concludes the Thesis.

II. CLARIFICATION OF THE TITLE USED

Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System. For a number of reasons, the adjoining Plumas and Sierra counties in northern California have consolidated under one system to provide library service to the people of both counties. The system is made up of the main branch at Quincy, plus ten branches throughout Plumas County and six branches in Sierra

County. This system is what is referred to by the title Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

There is not a large amount of literature dealing with the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System, but a few works, which include the system in their treatment of the Northern California Public Library Systems, are available. Of these, one of the more notable is the study of the Modoc, Lassen, Plumas and Sierra County Library Systems done by Edward A. Wight. Although somewhat dated, (August 1, 1955), it is the only work found dealing specifically with the problems of each County Library System, and makes recommendations for the future for each of the library systems surveyed.[1]

Two more recent, and also more general, reports have been made, including the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System. The first, the Preliminary Report on Public Library Services in Northern California, came out in the spring of 1966,[2]

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[1]Edward A. Wight, Public Library Service in Four Northeastern California Counties (Berkeley, California: October, 1956), pp. 12-17.

[2]Public Administration Service, Public Library Services in Northern California: A Report on Library Services in Northern California for: the Northern California Council of Librarians (Chicago: 1966).

and was closely followed by the official report, Public Library Services in Northern California in the fall of 1966. Both reports were prepared for the Northern California Council of Librarians by the Public Administration Service.[3] Both reports also include sections specifically on the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System, with specific suggestions for the future improvement of the system, as well as numerous tables and general information on the rural areas of northern California, covering population, geography, economy, agriculture, recreation, and projected growth.[4]

A year prior to the above mentioned reports, Lowell A. Martin and Roberta Bowler published a report for the California State Librarian on Public Library Service in California. The report contained specific remarks on the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Library System. The work integrates the County System with the State Library Service as a whole. The report uses maps, tables, appendixes and indexes, in its survey of California Library Service. This report takes into consideration the specific nature of each region served by Public Libraries; its particular and often unique problems. In its conclusion, this work includes a plan of action for library service in California which provides for the

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[3]Public Administration Service, Public Library Services in Northern California: A Report on Library Services in Northern California for: the Northern California Council of Librarians (San Fransicso: 1966).

[4]Ibid.

growth and development of each of the county Public Library systems.[5]

Another work dealing with the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System is Harriet G. Eddy's personal reminiscences. Although this work is largely historical in nature it is interesting for the legal and procedural information it includes on the establishment and the administering of the System. Mrs. Eddy recounts her experiences in founding the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System including the names of the people on the Board of Supervisors with whom she worked.[6]

These works all deal with the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System in some specific way, although none are particularly recent. At this time there is little of a specific nature on this System which is less than five years old, but in most respects the System does not seem to have changed a great deal since these works, excepting Mrs. Eddy's recollections, have been published.

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[5]Lowell A. Martin, Public Library Service Equal to the Challenge of California: A Report to the State Librarian (Sacramento: California State Library, 1965).

[6]Harriet G. Eddy, County Free Library Organizing in California (Berkeley: California Library Association, 1955).

CHAPTER III

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE REGION

In 1820 a Spanish exploring party under Captain Louis A. Arguello followed a river north into previously unknown country. Because the river waters carried the feathers of many birds, Captain Arguello named the river Rio de Las Plumas. This is the river now known as the Feather River.[1]

Later, during the year 1825, the drainage area of the Feather River was trapped by the men of the Hudson Bay Fur and American Fur Companies. These were the first Americans into the Plumas and Sierra County areas, but they did not record any particular comments on the area, so it was left for the early settlers of the 1840's to rediscover, map and record the existence of the area.[2]

Peter Lassen and his partner, Isadore Meyerwitz, had been through Plumas County in 1848, probably even as early as 1846. Lassen and his partner had come west by the Old Oregon Trail and stayed to establish Lassen's Station and to mark a new trail, the Lassen Cut - Off. Although not as good, or safe, a trail as the

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[1] Fariss and Smith, History of Plumas and Sierra Counties, with California from 1513 to 1850 (San Francisco: Fariss and Smith, 1882), p. 144.

[2] Ibid.

existing one, many unsuspecting travelers were cajoled into taking it and thus lining Lassen's pockets.[3]

In the fall of 1849, an emmigrant called Stoddard was traveling down the Lassen Cut - Off with a party of fellow travelers. He was to do more to open up Plumas and Sierra counties than any man other than Jim Beckwourth.[4]

There are two basic tales of what happened, and many variations on those, a story that has now become a legend. The story is simple. Stoddard, later to be known as "Crazy", and a friend whose identity is generally unknown, went hunting in order to supply meat to the party. The area they were in is generally unknown, but some stories credit the Big Meadows region as their starting point. At any rate, the pair, being rank tenderfeet, became lost and wandered about for several days in search of their party. Eventually they came to a small lake, at which they found numerous chunks of gold. However, they were frightened and tiring, and when set upon by Indians, took to their heels and fled, becoming separated. Stoddard is said to have run about in a frightened sort of way for another week before finally finding his way to the Yuba River.[5]

Stoddard traveled immediately to San Francisco, in search of

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[3]Ibid.

[4]Ibid., p. 145.

[5]Ibid., p. 146.

news of his friend, but could find no news of him, and so returned to Marysville. By that time winter had set in, and with the experiences of the Donner Party still fresh in everyone's mind wintering in the mountains was greatly feared. Stoddard repeated his story many times, exhibiting large and extremely valuable gold nuggets. In May, 1850, Stoddard set out from Nevada City with a large party into the mountains in search of the "Gold Lake", which most stories agree was never found. In searching for the lake, though, the company explored most of Plumas County and part of Sierra County. Last Chance Valley was supposedly so named because it was there that the company gave Stoddard twenty - four hours to lead them to the "Gold Lake" under pain of being strung up to the nearest tree. Humbug Valley, in Plumas County, is also said to be named after the incident.[6]

The party covered Sierra Valley, Red Clover Valley, possibly Humbug Valley, and the large areas in between. This company was the advance guard of 49'ers that searched for the "Gold Lake." Although the lake was never found, gold was, and the 49'ers streamed into the mountains in their quest for it.[7]

In 1852, Jim Beckwourth, Mountain Man, adopted Crow Chief, a man of many parts, opened Beckwourth Pass into Sierra Valley, and blazed the trail that enabled the wagon trains from the east to

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[6]Ibid., p. 148.

[7]Ibid.

come into Sierra Valley. This provided a way into the gold fields for the 49'ers and settlers, through Sierra Valley and into Indian and American Valleys.[8]

Those hardy settlers who survived the terrible winter of 1852-53 stayed and settled in the valleys, and in 1854, on March 8th, Plumas County was organized.[9] A County Judge, District Attorney, Clerk, Sheriff, Treasurer, Assessor, and Surveyor were named, and a Board of Supervisors was elected on April 4th, 1855.[10]

Mail and supplies were a constant problem for the early settlers and 49'ers. Snowshoes had not yet come into use in 1852, the first winter, so mounted messengers delivered the mail in summer, late spring, and fall; the letters thus delivered brought a dollar to the messenger, and newspapers fifty cents. Small parcels and gold dust would be taken down for a nominal fee.[11]

Snowshoes came into use during the winter of 1853, but few messengers could be found who were willing to make the hazardous journey down to Oroville or Marysville during the winter. In 1858 a Mr. Whiting imported a team of Newfoundland and St. Bernard dogs, plus sled, which he managed and drove himself. The dogs proved

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[8] Ibid., p. 152.

[9] Ibid., p. 161.

[10] Mary E. Dunn, A Report Given at the June, 1960, Meeting of the Plumas County Historical Society (Plumas Historical Society Publications 1-4, 11/9/60) No. 1, p.3.

[11] Fariss and Smith, History of Plumas and Sierra Counties, p. 232.

successful. Until 1865 and the advent of snowshoes for horses, the dogs pulled sleds loaded with mail and some few of the lighter supplies up the mountains for the snowed in miners and ranchers.[12]

The first wagon roads in the area followed the valleys and the rivers, as later the railroads were to do, and even later, the highways. Organization was commenced for Plumas County's first road on July 23, 1855. It was completed by November 5, and established as a toll road allowing wagon travel to pass from Quincy to Spanish Ranch. The road was repaired by the county in the years 1874-75 and established as a public thoroughfare.[13]

Pioneer Wagon Road, from Meadow Valley to Buckeye, was completed in the Fall of 1857. Plumas Turnpike, from Plumas Mills to Indian Valley, was built in 1860. The Chico and Humboldt Wagon Road was built from Chico to Honey Lake in 1863. The Quincy and Indian Valley Wagon Road was built in 1870. In 1867, the Quincy - La Porte Wagon Road, 34½ miles long, was completed. Most of these roads have been modified, but are still basically the same routes. The Buck's Lake Road, from Quincy to the man-made lake follows the same track as the Quincy - Spanish Ranch Wagon Road. The Old Tollgate house can still be seen from it. The Quincy - Indian Valley Wagon Road is now the route followed by the upper stretch of Highway 70 into Quincy. The Quincy - La Porte Wagon Road is still in use and supports car travel although it is only partially paved.

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[12]Ibid., p. 233.

[13]Ibid., p. 234.

The Plumas Turnpike Road, and the Chico and Humboldt Road are in use by Plumas County logging companies and form the basis of logging roads through Plumas National Forest.[14]

In June, 1877, the first Telegraph message was sent from Quincy, and in the winter of 1877 - 78, a group of miners made crude attempts to devise a system of telephone communication, but the project failed. At the time of the original publication of the Fariss and Smith History, in 1882, there was no telephone or railway system in either Plumas or Sierra Counties.[15]

In 1863, Plumas County and Lassen County, then a part of Nevada and called Roop County, engaged in a dispute over the Honey Lake Valley area. Two groups, one representing Roop County, one representing Plumas County, forted up in the town called Susanville, now the Lassen County Seat, and exchanged gunfire for four hours. One man was shot and killed. A few other men were injured. The settlement finally agreed upon was that California and Nevada should each appoint a representative for the running of a boundary line from Lake Tahoe to Oregon. The resulting line virtually destroyed Roop County; what little there is left is now attached to Washoe County, Nevada. The territory then added to the state of California became a part of Lassen County, which was organized in 1864.[16]

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[14] Ibid., pp. 234-36.

[15] Ibid., p. 241.

[16] Ibid., pp. 358-63.

The boundary between Plumas and Sierra County was peacefully agreed upon, and in 1868 Sierra County was officially organized.[17]

Plumas County, organized earlier, had the earliest schools. There is a record of a grammer school as early as 1851 in the Johnsville area. It was called the Eureka Mills school, but was informally organized. Official organization came in 1891.[18] Elizabethtown had another early school, this one formally organized in 1854, and was followed by Pioneer School, in American Valley, in 1857. The Elizabethtown boom faded, and 1857 saw the Betsy Gulch school moved to Quincy proper, now the County Seat.[19]

Mohawk Valley started school in 1865; the Sierra County schools didn't get started until 1868, but in that year Summit, (now called Chilcoot) started school, and so did Vinton, Beckwourth and Rocky Point. Antelope School at Loyalton started in 1872; so did Hot Spring School, out in the Valley, and Sulphur Spring School in Clio. Another school opened in Sierra Valley in 1873, called Island School. Graeagle started Mann School in 1886. The Rocky Point, Summit Antelope, Island and Mann schoolhouses still stand. Portola started school as late as 1910, but of all the

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[17]Plumas County Historical Society, "Our Vanished One-Room Schools", Memories of Eastern Plumas and Sierra Valley, Publication no. 20 (September 12, 1965), p. 9.

[18]Ibid., p. 12.

[19]Fariss and Smith, History of Plumas and Sierra Counties, pp. 313-15.

other elementary schools in eastern Plumas County, it is the only one still in existence.[20]

In 1908, Plumas County High School was created, accepting students who lived in Plumas County. The same area is now administered by the Plumas Unified School District. A school building was erected on the "Dewsbury Park" site in Quincy in 1914, and is still in use as a part of Quincy Junior-Senior High School. A running battle of several years duration went on before Greenville managed to get legal sanction to build a high school of its own, but the permanent building for Greenville school was completed in 1913.[21]

Also in 1908, Sierra Valley started a high school. It was called Sierra Valley Joint Union High School and was held at Loyalton. The school accepted students from Portola as well as from Sierra County, as Loyalton was closer to Portola than Quincy.[22]

Mining continued in most areas of Plumas County well into the twentieth century. It still goes on today, although in a slightly more sophisticated form. Sierra Valley, not noted for it's gold,

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[20] Plumas County Historical Society, "Our Vanished One - Room Schools", pp. 2-12.

[21] Grant Youngs, "Plumas County High School 1908 - 1914", Plumas County Historical Society, Publication no. 28 (June, 1968), pp. 7-14.

[22] Ibid.

was readily settled by farmers and ranchers.[23] The Mohawk and Genessee Valleys at one time supported thriving dairy ranches. Lumbering businesses got started early. Jobe Taylor had built a sawmill in Indian Valley as early as 1855.[24]

Portola, population now 1,788, was a lumber camp in 1906. In 1909 the railroad had begun to build, and a town was laid out. A grammer school was included, and a high school was established in 1921. The early twentieth century brought the railroads and prosperity to many of the communities around Sierra Valley, the towns of Loyalton, Portola, and Chilcoot (once called Summit), booming with populations of two or three time present numbers.[25]

The railroads, completed in 1909, brought the resort trade to Plumas County. The Western Pacific tracks opened the way up the North Fork of the Feather River to Quincy, then followed the Middle Fork of the Feather to Portola before striking across Sierra Valley for Reno, and from there, to Salt Lake City. The Keddie and Belden Resorts still exist under the same names, and Guy's Resort, now

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[23]Plumas County Historical Society, "A General History of Sierra Valley", Sierra Valley: Discovery, Towns, Travel, Mills, Railroads; Portola, Publication no. 2 (December 4, 1960), p. 1.

[24]Henri Fisher, "Taylorsville Tales", Plumas County Historical Society, Publication no. 4 (April 9, 1961), p. 30.

[25]Plumas County Historical Society, "A General History of Sierra Valley", p. 5.

called Maple Leaf Inn, dates from 1922.[26]

The same route the railroad had used, called the Feather River Canyon Route, was chosen for the State Highway, originally called Alternate Highway 40. The need for a highway from the upper Sacramento Valley through Beckwourth Pass was acute. State Highway 40, now Interstate 80, over Donner Summit, often was forced to close during the winter because of high winds and snow. The Feather River Canyon Route was the only route through the Sierras relatively free of heavy snow. A Bond Issue for the construction of this highway was passed in 1919, although it was some time before anything was done.[27] It took nine years for convict labor to carve the two - lane highway out of the sides of solid rock canyon walls. The Feather River Highway was opened for traffic in 1937, thus providing a relatively snow free pass to the world outside the Sierras.[28]

In 1905, the Plumas Forest Reserve was created and L. A. Barrett named the first supervisor of both it and the concurrently created Diamond Mountain Reserve. In company with a small group of

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[26]Plumas County Historical Society, "Canyon Resorts", Building the Western Pacific, Publication no. 17 (September 20, 1964), pp. 20-22.

[27]Ben Blow, California Highways: A descriptive record of road development by the state and by such counties as have paved highways (San Francisco, 1920), pp. 110-111.

[28]Joe Crivello, formerly of the Plumas County Board of Supervisors, interviewed at Quincy, California, April 12, 1972.

rangers, Barrett rode thousands of miles through virgin timber, enforcing the fish and game laws, checking on the land use by cattle ranchers, discovering and mapping all possible mining claims and checking their legitimacy, and running out the illegal logging operations poaching government timber. Barrett built Claremont lookout in 1908 and put in a telephone line. It was the first fire lookout in either Reserve.[29] The job of Forest Ranger continued to be much the same up to World War II, the rangers having to spend much of their time on the back of a horse. It was after World War II that mechanized means of transportation came into consistent use. With the formation of the new Middle Fork of the Feather River Wilderness Area, rangers may again be patrolling on horseback and afoot, protecting the last stand of virgin timber in Plumas National Forest.[30]

The advent of the railroads did much to change the economy of the area. Not only did they open the area to organized recreation, but it provided a readily available means of shipping out lumber, thus increasing the size of that major industry. The railroads also changed the cattle raising industry of the counties, which prior to World War I and the railroad was largely dairy ranching. The

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[29]L. A. Barrett, "Early Day History of Lassen and Plumas Forests", Plumas County Historical Society, Publication no. 5 (June 4, 1961), pp. 1 - 16.

[30]Supervisor's Office, U. S. Forest Service, Quincy, California, April 13, 1972.

Mohawk, Sierra, Indian, Genessee, and American Valleys all at one time supported large dairy ranches, which became difficult to keep after the war as labor became scarce in the mountains. Beef cattle required far less care than the great dairy herds and could be shipped out by railroad with great convenience to the ranchers.[31]

Farming in the valleys of Plumas and Sierra counties began in 1851 with the raising of vegetables, and in 1853 farmers began raising wheat, barley, and oats.[32] Agriculture continues throughout the valleys to the present time, dominated by beef production and the production of grains and hays, although Christmas tree farming is a growing enterprise.[33]

The railroad brought tourists to the counties, tourists that stayed to enjoy the lakes created by the Great Western Power Company in its quest for electrical energy.[34] The Big Meadows area became Lake Almanor with the construction of a dam on the North Fork of the Feather River.[35] Great Western Power Company also

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[31]A. Strang, "Round Up Time in Sierra Valley", Sierra County Historical Review, Vol. I, no. 2 (June 10, 1969), p. 7.

[32]Fariss and Smith, History of Plumas and Sierra Counties, with California from 1513 to 1850, pp. 316 - 20.

[33]Earl Withycombe, ed. Sierra County General Plan (Quincy, California, July, 1966), pp. 5 - 6.

[34]Norman Shelton, present Manager of the Quincy Pacific Gas and Electric Office, interviewed at Quincy, California, April 13, 1972.

[35]Plumas County Chamber of Commerce, Feather River County: Plumas County (Quincy, California), map.

built the dam on Buck's Creek in 1927, inundating the valley long known as Buck's Ranch, the stop over point on the long trail to the Feather River Gold Fields. Later, the Great Western Power Company, now a part of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company System, built the system of power dams on the North Fork of the Feather River below Lake Almanor. The first Caribou powerhouse was built in 1922, the second in 1958; between Caribou no. 1 and Caribou no. 2, Rock Creek and Cresta powerhouses were built in 1948. The Butt Valley and Poe powerhouses were also built in 1958. These powerhouses, with their dams, supply electrical power to much of the state of California.[36]

The recreational potential of Plumas and Sierra counties got another boost in the 1960's with the creation of three more lakes, Antelope Lake, north of Taylorsville and Genessee Valley, Lake Davis, north of Portola, and Frenchman Lake, between Portola and Reno.[37]

The greatest recent development in the history of Plumas County is the annexation of Plumas County to Peralta Junior College District. Prior to the annexation, Plumas County was pressured to join Lassen Junior College District in a four county situation. In an election on June 4, 1968, the voters of Plumas

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[36]Norman Shelton, April 13, 1972.

[37]Plumas County Chamber of Commerce, Feather River Country.

County said no, and the Peralta agreement went through. A site was chosen slightly north of Spanish Creek, on the old Whipple Ranch, and by 1969, classes were being held.[38]

It seems fairly assured now, that the future economic stability of Plumas and Sierra Counties will depend at least partially on the successful development of the area's recreational promise. The coming of the Junior College has opened the region and brought it to the attention of other areas of the state. It remains to be seen whether the new gold, land, will be managed in such a way as to provide a sound economic basis for the further development of the area.[39]

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[38]Records collected by Barbara Miller, secretary to Robert F. Schoensee, Plumas County Superintendent of Schools, Quincy, California, March 17, 1972.

[39]Plumas County Chamber of Commerce, Feather River Country.

CHAPTER IV

THE MAIN BRANCH - QUINCY

The Plumas County Free Library is one of the many county public libraries organized by Harriet G. Eddy during her nine years of county free library organizing under California State Librarian James L. Gillis. According to Miss Eddy, it was Mrs. Hail, County Superintendent of Schools of Plumas County who first made the request for help organizing a County Library, in 1911. A busy schedule forced Miss Eddy to leave the request dormant until in 1913 she was finally able to make the trip to Quincy. Lack of time again prevented the organization from taking place, but in 1915 Miss Eddy made another trip to Quincy, this time successfully. The resolution of establishment necessary to the new library was passed September 7, 1915 and a Miss Blanche Chalfant was appointed Librarian.[1]

No mention is made of the original building to house the library, but in August of 1921 the Plumas County Courthouse was completed, and soon after, the Plumas County Free Library came to be housed

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[1] Harriet G. Eddy, County Free Library Organizing in California 1909 - 1918 (Berkeley: California Library Association, 1955), pp. 85 - 86.

in its west wing, where it can still be found.[2]

As the library grew over the approximately fifty year period, both in the demands made upon it, and the population which it served, the need for a new library building became increasingly apparent. In 1969, application was made to the Library Services and Construction Act, Title II, for funds to construct an entirely new building to house the Main Branch of the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System.[3] The application was turned down.[4]

At the time the application was turned down, the Main Branch of the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library was serving as headquarters for ten branches in Plumas County and five branches in Sierra County. The service for these fifteen branches was, and is, carried out in a work room containing only 500 square feet of space, and this area had to contain all necessary equipment and shelving plus the County Librarian's desk and the Assistant County Librarian's desk. The public service area of the library consisted of only

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[2]Plumas County Historical Society, "Plumas County Courthouse - Old and New", Plumas Memories, Publication no. 32 (June 8, 1969), p. 27.

[3]Josephine Moore and Darrell Payne, Application to Library Services and Construction Act, Title II (Quincy, California: Plumas County, California, 1969), p. 1.

[4]Darrell Payne, Plumas County Engineer and Planning Director, interviewed in Quincy, California, April, 1971.

800 square feet of space, with seating for only eighteen patrons. At the time of the original application there was shelving for only about 3,500 volumes open to the public. Closed stacks in the basement of the courthouse present problems for both the patrons and the library staff. Opportunities for the patron to browse were strictly limited.

The storeroom adds approximately 1,000 square feet to the library, with unfinished wood shelving fourteen feet high and reached only with the use of twelve foot ladders. This shelving held approximately 25,000 volumes. The storeroom also housed five years of the back issues of ninety magazines.[6]

The Main Branch was, and is, open 47½ hours a week, Monday through Friday. In 1962 - 63 the total circulation of the Main Branch in Quincy was 45,675 volumes.[7] In 1970 - 71 the total circulation had dropped to 37,905 volumes.[8]

In the Fall of 1971, application for a Federal Grant in order to build a new Main Branch Library in Quincy was made. This time the application was approved, with the library to include a

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[5]Josephine Moore and Darrell Payne, Application to Library Services and Construction Act, Title II, p. 3.

[6]Ibid.

[7]Ibid.

[8]Circulation records for the Main Branch, Quincy, Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library, for the year July 1970 to June, 1971.

Community Meeting Hall.[9]

The site chosen for the new Community Center and Library has already been purchased by the County and is quite centrally located, being bounded by Jackson, Bradley and Harbison streets. The new Library will be directly across the street from the Courthouse, diagonally across Jackson Street from the Museum with the north entrance less than half a block from the business area on Main Street. There are several trees on the lot, most of which will be left standing to provide a parklike feeling in the lawn and garden area Mr. Darrell Payne has planned for the grounds around the Community Center. Parking is not yet a problem, but Mr. Payne has plans to put in an area for diagonal parking adjacent to the Community Center in the near future. The Lawry house is the only residence on the lot, and it will continue to be in use by the Lawry family for a time. At their departure, the house will become a part of the Community Center - Public Library complex and will probably see some use as an Art Gallery, as well as a number of other possible uses.[10]

The plan for the Community Center - Public Library was developed by Mr. Darrell Payne and Mr. Albert W. Kahl, A. I. A.

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[9]Darrell Payne, Plumas County Engineer and Planning Director, speaking before the A. A. U. W., in Quincy, California, November, 1971.

[10]Ibid.

from San Mateo, California and drawn by Mr. Kahl. It includes a meeting room with public restrooms and a kitchen-storage area that can be closed off from the library proper. There are two main entrances also serving the meeting room. A third entrance, on the east side, adequate for use with bookmobiles, serves the shipping and processing area of the new Library.[11]

The basic shape of the new Library somewhat resembles the letter T. The tail of the T is the main Reading Room, facing west. The south wing of the crossbar of the T houses the Children's Room, and the work area of the Librarian and staff. The Librarian will have his own office, and there is a Staff Room and restroom facilities. The processing and shipping area adjoins the Librarian's office, while the open stack area is behind the circulation desk and spiral staircase in the center of the T, where the tail meets the crossbar. The Meeting Room, public restrooms and kitchen-storage space are all housed in the west wing of the building.[12]

There are two upstairs rooms reached by the spiral staircase, one of which will have a large window and railing; it will be an auxiliary reading room to the one below it. The other will

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[11]Darrell Payne, Plumas County Engineer and Planning Director, interviewed in Quincy, California, on April 6, 1962.

[12]Ibid.

probably be used as a mechanical room.[13]

Shelving for the building will be of the metal adjustable type; because it must be bolted into place as a permanent fixture, the price of buying and installing the shelving was included in the bid.[14]

Furniture for the new Library will be the problem. The Friends of the Library, organized by Miss Josephine Moore during her tenure as Head Librarian of the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library, have a limited amount of money put away for just that purpose, but this amount will not go very far in buying Library furniture. Other sources of money for this purpose will have to be discovered if the new library is to be well furnished.[15]

At present the Main Branch Library, and to a lesser extent, the outlying branches are in a state of change. From 1964 when Mrs. Dorothy Egbert took over the position of Head Librarian until April of 1972, the system was run by a Head Librarian lacking a Master's Degree in Library Science. In April of 1972, Mr. John Little, a Master's Degree Librarian from Berkeley, became Head Librarian for the system. Mrs. Margaret Mitchell managed the system

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[13]Ibid.

[14]Ibid.

[15]John Little, Head Librarian, Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library, interviewed in Quincy, California, on April 6, 1972.

in the interim between Mr. Little's arrival and Mrs. Egbert's retirement in December, 1971.[16]

The change in the Head Librarian is not the only change facing the system. The North State Cooperative System is still new to the Plumas-Sierra system, and the system has yet to learn how to work within the Cooperative for maximum effectiveness. The Cooperative offers the rural systems Interlibrary Loans, book transportation, Reference Service, and In-Service Training for library personnel, including numerous opportunities for enrichment of patron services as well as bringing out a number of techniques in Public Relations which libraries find useful.[17] It is fortunate that Mr. Little, the new Head Librarian, is from Oroville, where he was familiar with and worked within the North State Cooperative.[18]

The greatest single obstacle of any rural system is one of sheer distance. In 1955, in his report, Public Library Service in Four Northeastern California Counties, Edward Wight proposed that the system run a bookmobile as a partial solution to the Board of Supervisors.[19] The idea did not seem to impress the Supervisors

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[16]Margaret Mitchell, Interim Acting Head Librarian, interviewed in Quincy, California, March, 1972.

[17]Dorothy Egbert, Acting Head Librarian, 1964 - 1971, interviewed in Quincy, California, April, 1971.

[18]Margaret Mitchell, March, 1972.

[19]Edward A. Wight, Public Library Service in Four Northeastern California Counties, pp. 12-17.

much, as by 1971, the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library system still does not have a bookmobile.[20]

The dispersion of materials has always been accomplished by a variety of means. Whenever the branches are on the way for the Cooperative truck, books are delivered by the driver. For more out of the way branches, those in Sierra Valley among them, the Head Librarian, in the past, has made a swing of the Valley in her own car, approximately once a month during the clement weather seasons, (that is, from April, sometimes March, through October, sometimes November). Mrs. Egbert also delivered books to the branches along Highway 89, whenever she drove to Red Bluff for Cooperative System meetings. Taylorsville, Belden, and the other branches in Post Offices have all materials mailed to them. Whenever possible, materials are mailed to the branches.[21]

The library seeks to cooperate with the schools in extending library services to school children whenever possible. The library maintains, and has maintained, for a number of years, a summer reading program for school children throughout both counties that has met with some success. Circulation in Juvenile books soars during the summer months to two and three times its regular levels. All of the branches reflect this rise, if somewhat less dramatically

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[20]Dorothy Egbert, April, 1971.

[21]Ibid.

in the most outlying of the areas.[22]

Library staff in the Main Branch tries for the most part to extend Reference Service to students whenever possible.[23] The Reference Section is badly outdated,[24] but microfilm, a microfilm reader, phonograph records, periodicals and books are all available to the patron. The North State Cooperative's Reference Service and Interlibrary Loan are also available to the patron, but the patron has not been informed of these services, and in most cases would not receive them unless he asked specifically for them, due to Mrs. Egbert's feeling that her staff was already over-worked and over-worried enough without the added strain of services which they are not trained to give.[25]

Under Head Librarian Josephine Moore, library staff prepared book talks and took them to the Elementary and High schools in the two counties; they also held story hours in the Children's section of the Reading Room. As the book collection grew, the pressure of current materials crowded out seating until there was no longer any room for story hours. As the demands upon the staff for services increased, the staff in the Main Branch ceased giving book talks in

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[22]Ibid.

[23]Ibid.

[24]John Little, April 6, 1972.

[25]Dorothy Egbert, April, 1971.

the schools.[26]

Book selection for the system is based largely on requests and the most obvious needs in non-fiction. Requests for multiple copies are met by purchasing paperbacks whenever possible. The Main Branch, as a result, has a large number of paperbacks in proportion to its hardback collection, but the paperbacks seem quite popular among library patrons and do not require the processing the hard books do. There is no formal, written Book Selection Policy at this time, but possibly the reason this state has been allowed to exist is the small size of the total budget.[27] The total budget of 1970 - 71 was only $69,575, and of this amount, only $14,000 was budgeted for Library Materials. Sierra County pays $3,500 for the contract services provided by the system; this figure is included in the total budget figure. This money provides maintenance, including utilities, building rent, salaries, and all operational costs.[28]

The establishment of the new Junior College with its attendant library both supports and makes demands on the Public Library. The academic library of the Junior College is better equipped to deal with the academically inclined reference demands of the community,

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[26] Ibid.

[27] Ibid.

[28] California Public Library Report, Budget Records for the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library System 1969-1970 and 1970-1971, (Quincy, California: Plumas County Library, Main Branch, 1971), p. 7.

but in turn, the student body is dependent on the Public Library for materials supplementary to that which is available at the Junior College Library and for whatever recreational reading they do.[29]

At present, the only Master's Degree Librarian within the system is the new Head Librarian, Mr. John Little.[30] The remainder of the staff, while hard-working and anxious to be of service, have minimal training, some of them none at all, for the jobs they are doing. New personnel are shown tasks by more experienced personnel, while few have had any specific training in basic library procedures, and even fewer have had any study in library purposes and goals. However, in spite of extremely difficult spacial limitations and related handicaps, the Main Branch Library staff do a great deal in the area of Reference Services.[31] The new library should alleviate the spacial difficulties, and with a professionally trained librarian in the Head Librarian's position once more, perhaps in-service training can take place.[32]

In the limited area of the old building, space was so restricted that putting on more staff than already existed would be practically useless because the space necessary for them to work in was non-existent.[33]

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[29]Dorothy Egbert, April, 1971.

[30]Margaret Mitchell, March, 1972.

[31]Dorothy Egbert, April, 1971.

[32]John Little, April 6, 1972.

[33]Dorothy Egbert, April, 1971.

Once moved into the new building, there should be plenty of space for such activities as story hours; the new Librarian hopes that he will be able to train his existing staff and hire more people so that the library can offer more services to the patrons, start new programs, such as book talks, and open the library more hours, notably on Saturdays. Mr. Little also wishes that an interlibrary loan and cooperative program planning could be started between the Public Library and the school libraries; the District Library for Plumas County Schools, the Quincy Junior Senior High School, and the Feather River Junior College Library, in order to provide more service to the library patrons of Plumas and Sierra counties.[34]

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[34]John Little, April 6, 1972.

CHAPTER V

THE BRANCHES

Plumas County. There are ten library branches throughout Plumas County besides the Main Branch in Quincy. Only three of these ten branches are housed in separate buildings. Two are in stores, two in the local Post Offices, and two are in private homes. The tenth branch is located in a Tavern in La Porte.[1]

Chester. Of the three separately housed libraries, the one in Chester is certainly the showplace of the county. This branch occupies an old peeled log cabin stained a dark attractive red color on the outside and finished in natural wood on the inside, with a masonry fireplace. The structure has two stories and ample room for library expansion. It is heated by a simple oil heater which is quite adequate for the library's needs. The acting librarian for the branch has no specialized library training, and only one substitute, also with no specialized library training. The library is open 34 hours a week; this includes two evenings a week when the

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[1]Circulation records for the Branches, Quincy, Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library, for the year July, 1970 to June, 1971.

library is open for two hours at a time.[2]

The Chester branch offers most of the same materials offered by the Main Branch Library at Quincy and all materials the system has are available by request. In addition there are the recently initiated traveling packets of art books the North State Cooperative sends around to the outlying branches for their enrichment. At the time of this interview, the librarian had not had occasion to use the Cooperative's Interlibrary Loan.[3]

During the winter, Chester gets quite a bit of snow; this is the time when the so-called "year-'rounders" use the library most. The Chester librarian acts as a reference service for many of the High School and Elementary School children and continues to give book talks at the schools and have story hours at the library around the big stone fireplace. Each month a shipment of about 100 "new" books come in to the branch, and the librarian sends back about 100 of the books that have been read as many times as they're going to be that particular year. Requests go in to the Main Branch continuously, and most receive prompt response.[4]

Summer brings the so-called "summer people", of which Chester has a fair amount, being a resort town. Ranchers from the valley bring up

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[2]Carolyn Brock, Acting Library Clerk, Chester Branch Library, interviewed in Chester, California, March, 1971.

[3]Ibid.

[4]Ibid.

cattle each spring for the summer grazing and stay awhile; nearby Lake Almanor draws its share of summer residents who open cabins boarded up for the winter. Most of these people use the library, the summer reading program drawing the children of both populations.[5]

The Chester librarian works hard to keep up with all the new Cooperative programs; she keeps signs up around the library publicizing materials available through the Cooperative. Her major expressed problems were several. At the time of the interview the second floor of the library had not yet been prepared for use; until the added floor and shelf space made expansion possible, she could not carry enough books to provide her patrons a varied enough selection of reading. During the winter, many of her patrons, retired, read their way through her entire book collection and eagerly awaited the month's shipment of books from the Main Branch, which might easily be delayed by inclement weather. The librarian feels if she could carry a larger book collection throughout the year, this would prevent the situation. The other problem is the lack of a card file indexing the holdings of the entire system which would help the patron in making his requests. Cards are sent with each shipment of books, however, which the librarian files into her branch's card catalog for the patrons use.[6]

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[5]Ibid.

[6]Ibid.

Greenville. Greenville is another active branch; the town built the library building in 1952. The building is the most modern of all the branches and reflects a small community's pride in achievement. Like Chester, Greenville has a core collection of its own books, available to the system through request, but residually housed in the Greenville branch, among them a set of Harvard classics, a collection of mineralogical books and a treasured set of 78 rpm records. The Community display case in the vestibule of the library changes each month. In it families house heirlooms, antiques and simple curiousities of general interest to the community.[7]

The summer reading program is as strong in Greenville as anywhere in the county, but does not end entirely in summer. The Greenville library carries the High School's recommended reading list, and the librarian works hard to make sure the titles listed are available. She encourages visits by High School and Elementary School classes and occasionally teaches a unit in Library use. Like the Chester librarian she reads extensively in an attempt to extend greater services to her patrons and works at keeping track of the North State Cooperative's programs. Requests and book shipments provide the necessary variety to the branch, although the same problem, lack of a system-wide card file, prevents the library user from knowing what titles the system has available.[8]

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[7] Ibid.

[8] Ibid.

Portola. Portola not only serves its own community, but serves as a resource and reference center for the entire Sierra Valley, being the closest branch of any size for all Valley residents. Monthly shipments here tend to average around 200 books with the inclusion of request books and the ever popular paperbacks. Interaction between the library and the schools in each community varies somewhat in form, but always starts from the basic foundation of the summer reading program. In Portola, the library has been held open one night a week, particularly for the High School students to meet and use the library. In the summer the librarian holds story hours for the Elementary school children once a week.[9]

The branch is an active library, drawing its patrons from the numbers of retired couples living in the town and outlying communities, plus the children, High School and Junior College students, and vacationers. The librarian has two substitutes, plus a work experience student two hours a day. The basic problems of the Portola branch are the same as those of Chester and Greenville, compounded by the use of the library by the communities of Graeagle, Cromberg, Sloat, Blairsden, Beckwourth, Vinton, and Chilcoot in Plumas County and by Loyalton, Calpine, Clio, and Sierraville from Sierra Valley.[10]

The Post Office Charges. The Taylorsville and Belden

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[9]Dorothy Rathburn, Acting Library Clerk for Portola Branch, interviewed in Portola, California, March, 1971.

[10]Ibid.

charges are both housed in the local Post Office, where the Postmistress can conveniently oversee them. There are certain built-in advantages to the Post Office charges. The Post Offices are already established as a community center; books are thus made available to the patron whenever the Post Office is open. Requests and book shipments are delivered to the door of the library charge which aids in promptness. There are also some disadvantages. Even with two bookshelves, library users are forced to travel to the nearest branch library for resource material and reference services because there simply is not space for the post office charge to supply these needs. Another disadvantage is a combination of lack of space for a browsing collection of any size, and the actual facilities, a table and chairs, that go with a reading area. Lack of juvenile literature is another problem, in that Belden and Taylorsville children attend multigrade schools with inadequqte library facilities at best. But in spite of the difficulties each of these charges have to face, Belden set deep in the Feather River Canyon, and Taylorsville with its cattle and logging economy, the summer reading program is put on, with a large percentage of the area children participating.[11]

Charges in stores. The Chilcoot and Beckwourth charges are in stores, and run by people working in the stores. This arrange-

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[11]Carol Kingdon, Postmistress, Taylorsville Post Office and Acting Library Clerk, interviewed in Taylorsville, California, March, 1971.

ment occasions some of the same disadvantages as the Post Office charges, lack of room for book collections, browsing, and reading areas, but it has the same over-riding advantage of the Post Offices: accessibility. In this cattle-ranching area with mail delivered on a route, the stores remain the most regularly visited places and one bookcase of novels and popular non-fiction is better than nothing, and highly appreciated on a long winter evening.[12]

Charges in Private Homes. Even with the charges in the local stores, distances are too far or too difficult of access in the wintertime, so home charges have been set up in homes readily accessible to the community in the area. There are two branches of this type in Plumas County, one in Vinton in a cattle ranching area, and the other at Storrie, the Pacific Gas and Electric camp in the Feather River Canyon. There are several advantages to the home branch; one is the greater space for books, (the Ramelli home out of Vinton has two full book stacks), and another is space for reading and browsing, combined with the convenience of having a cup of coffee and a chance to visit with someone. One major problem, however, is the lack of any set hours and the eventual inconvenience for the family housing the library charge. Reference and resources are apt to be better in the homes than in stores and Post Offices, but growth potential is even more sharply limited, and reference

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[12]Circulation records for the Branches, July, 1970 to June, 1971.

services are totally dependent upon the knowledge and helpfulness of the family running the charge.[13]

La Porte charge. The La Porte charge is located in Reilly's Tavern, and it is not particularly active. It is the only charge in either county not carrying on the summer reading program. One of the major disadvantages of the Reilly's Tavern charge would be that it is simply not used, not just by the children but by the entire reading public of La Porte, no matter what advantages in accessibility the charge may have. Vinton, Storrie, Chilcoot and Beckwourth are all service areas of smaller population than La Porte, but all show considerably more use.[14]

Sierra County. Only Loyalton and Allegheny in Sierra County have branches in separate buildings, and these branches are not overly large. The branches are only open two days a week for a total of eight hours, but the hours they are open they are busy. Both branches have regular substitutes for their library clerks, and are very similiar to the larger branches in Plumas County in that they run the summer reading programs, do weeding at regular intervals, and have the same problems. The Allegheny branch is more like the Chester branch in that it serves a higher incidence of retired and "summer" people, because, again like Chester, it

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[13] Ibid.

[14] Ibid.

is a resort area, while Loyalton resembles Greenville more closely. Like Greenville, the population it serves is largely year 'round, being supported by cattle ranching and logging.[15]

Loyalton has some interesting problems; it has a large population of Mexican families and the library clerk felt that a number of novels in Spanish, and some household hint types of works in non-fiction in that language would find a ready audience. Loyalton also has a number of Indian families, and at the time of the interview, a program in Indian culture was being enjoyed by a majority of them. The library clerk felt most definitely that the use of the library had been sharply limited in Loyalton by the extreme lack of space, second only in difficulty to the Main Branch's lack of space in Quincy and also to the strictly limited hours the library was open. It was her feeling that the potential for library service in Loyalton was as yet largely untapped.[16]

The Calpine charge. The Calpine charge is new, having been established in December of 1970 in a store. Ostensibly open only once a week, the Calpine charge climbed from a shaky start to a fairly healthy circulation for such a new and small charge. It will not satisfy the majority of resource and reference needs of the area, but it is a start, and as the patrons become accustomed to

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[15]Ibid.

[16]Barbara Gillen, Substitute Library Clerk, for Loyalton Branch, interviewed in Loyalton, California, April, 1971.

requesting what they need, will advance towards some adequacy.[17]

The Private Home charges. Sierraville, Sierra City and Downieville charges are all housed in private homes. They serve populations which draw their living from logging, cattle ranching, mining, and summer resorts. The Downieville and Sierra City charges are busy, their patrons requesting on one occasion as much as 76 books in one month. In these instances the Sierra City and Downieville charges are providing a strong library service, making the advantages of the home charge work for their patrons and minimizing the disadvantages with liberal use of the request.[18]

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[17]Dorothy Egbert, March, 1971.

[18]Circulation records for the Branches, July, 1970, to June, 1971.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

It can be seen from the preceding chapters that in certain ways the rural systems have some of the same problems as the urban library systems, such as lack of space and money, and a number of problems directly related to the type of area in which the system exists. Problems of staffing, when the majority of acting librarians and library clerks have little or no training beyond the High School level, when the population to be served is so widely spread that more than a hundred miles separates the Chester branch from the Loyalton branch, and when the informational needs of an area are so varied.

The new library will relieve most of the spacial problems the Main Branch library in Quincy now has, but it will also require a larger staff with some specialized in-service training, a more comprehensive book collection, and it should be open more hours to the public. In order to be able to do this, the staff will have to do some public relations work so that the money will be forthcoming for this purpose; that will mean the reestablishment of some community service programs like story hours, greater resources, and better reference services.

The basic problem of the new library at the outset will be the acquiring of furniture. The circulation desk and the metal shelving has been included in the bid, but there is little money for the furniture the new library will require. There is just about enough furniture in the old library to furnish the upstairs auxiliary reading room. A way to furnish the Children's Room inexpensively would be to use the informal style that San Jose Public Library has used in its Young Adult Section, by putting down a heavy carpet and having numerous cushions for the children to scatter around on the floor to sit on and a few inexpensive low tables of the "coffee" table style. The Orland Public Library recently moved into a new building and faced the same problems of obtaining new furniture that the Quincy Main Branch will face. The Orland librarian interested the service clubs in the area in the new library and got them to donate all the necessary furniture.

In the areas of reference services and resource materials, if the new librarian's desire for interlibrary cooperation with the Junior College, High School and District Libraries is carried out the quality of the Main Branch's reference service and resource materials will improve. But this alone is not enough. Massive, selective purchasing is necessary in addition, to achieve a book collection which could fill the informational needs of the area. Without training the library staff, however, a new reference and resource collection would be useless, but with the old collection,

the training would not be of very much use.

The branches in most cases do not have any particular difficulties with space, except for the Loyalton branch which has a problem almost as extreme as the present Main Branch's in Quincy. The branches do have the problem of not having enough books. Too often in the winter, in places like Chester, Loyalton, Allegheny and Downieville, the reason circulation drops is because the "year 'rounders" frequently have difficulty in finding books they haven't read. Patrons go through the shipment boxes dropping books into two stacks, those they've read and those they haven't. The already read stack frequently grows faster than the "new" book stack. The problem is that the Main Branch is trying to send out only current works to the branches and doesn't have the quantity of current books necessary to provide the branches with enough books; $14,000 just won't go that far. It might help the situation somewhat if some of the "oldies but goodies" were dug out of the storeroom, dusted off, and sent around to increase the size of the book shipments. These books are many of them quite good; the fact that they have been stored for ten or fifteen years only assures them a fresh audience. Without a system catalog patrons of the branches have no way of knowing that they are available. The most complete answer, of course, would be to promote a larger book budget for the library, but a larger budget will not be forthcoming in the near future, and will require a concerted effort on the part of the Head

Librarian, all library staff, all branch and charge library staff, The Friends of the Library, and all of the present library patrons. Less than that is not going to move a Board of Supervisors that kept the Main Branch, Quincy, housed in obsolete quarters twenty years after they became obsolete, and ignored the advice of some of the country's finest librarians for almost as long.

There are three main population areas in Plumas and Sierra Counties, areas which could be served with a fair amount of adequacy by creating three interlocking circles of reference service and resource centers. This could be achieved by increasing the reference and resource potential of the Chester, Quincy and Portola branches, in combination with the placement of a system wide catalog and branch location file in each of these three centers, with a system catalog in each branch and charge. If, for instance, Betty Ramelli in Vinton were to be asked for information she could not supply from her small book collection, she could pick up the telephone and call Portola, the nearest center. Information could be disseminated immediately, or, if a delay was necessitated, could be telephoned direct to the patron's home. Nearly all library patrons in Plumas and Sierra Counties have a telephone or access to a telephone. If material were requested, again, a telephone call to the nearest resource center would send the Portola librarian first to the system catalog to see if the system had the material, then to the branch location file. Another telephone call, and the book would go out in

the mail from the branch or charge where it was located on the same day it was requested, reaching the patron in a maximum of three days unless out on loan, or during an extremely bad storm when even the mail isn't running.

However, a program like this requires greater expenditures and added staff, (because many times patrons don't request materials due to the time lag--by the time the materials could reach them, the need for the information no longer exists; they have either muddled through without or gotten the material somewhere else, the former being the most frequent). It would take money to duplicate the system card catalog in Quincy sixteen times and keep it up to date, plus the added space necessary for card catalogs. Computer print-out catalogs would be ideal, especially with space at a premium as it so often is, but initial cost would probably be prohibitive, not to mention the cost of up dating and the necessary periodic revisions. It is marginally possible that a Head Librarian with great talent in public relations might be able to build the three centers if the expense could be kept "reasonable"; the added expense of computer print-out catalogs might just break a plan which otherwise would succeed. But the Plumas-Sierra Bi-County Public Library is going to have to grow somehow in this direction, as it will disintegrate into a mere book repository, of little use to the population as a whole. The construction of the new Main Branch in Quincy and the engagement of a modern professional librarian for the

Headship of the system holds out hope that the system can progress into the future successfully.

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A: TABLES

TABLE I

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE QUINCY BRANCH, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO MARCH, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Recreation	Total	Requests
(1970)						
7	1424	1260	1410	59	4153	
8	1406	1138	869	92	3505	
9	1329	1143	491	75	3038	
10	1353	1515	422	73	3363	
11	1156	1225	378	79	2838	
12	1198	1050	369	76	2693	
(1971)						
1	1159	1228	470	80	2937	
2	1037	1090	419	94	2640	
3	1239	1409	468	136	3252	
4	1237	1193	520	115	3065	
5	1093	1138	398	59	2688	
6	1298	1160	1226	50	3734	
7	1517	1152	1124	36	3829	
8	1341	1029	668	45	3153	
9	1341	956	399	44	2740	
10	1116	1098	381	55	2650	
11	1264	991	441	55	2751	
12	1168	1039	362	52	2621	
(1972)						
1	1297	1173	510	40	3020	
2	1323	1191	520	82	3116	
3	1366	1374	652	35	3427	

TABLE II

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE CHESTER BRANCH, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Recreation	Total	Requests
(1970)						
7	1009	389	912	17	2327	60
8	836	349	576	7	1768	56
9	625	305	207	5	1142	66
10	714	269	235	6	1224	68
11	682	305	250	26	1263	92
12	588	338	295	5	1226	54
(1971)						
1	724	443	263	7	1437	131
2	681	326	239		1246	71
3	919	431	331	22	1703	94
4	693	433	320	8	1454	99
5	661	328	256	14	1259	98
6	852	411	1001	15	2279	80
7	1005	468	1068	26	2567	94
8	1056	417	803	52	2328	81
9	747	274	287	14	1322	86
10	699	415	261	12	1387	89
11	698	294	273	17	1282	108
12	613	210	223	30	1076	71
(1972)						
1	664	275	234	30	1203	109
2	828	254	305	33	1420	99

TABLE III

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE GREENVILLE BRANCH, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Recreation	Total	Requests
(1970)						
7	508	308	413	18	1247	55
8	532	277	368	5	1182	56
9	380	229	223	14	846	54
10	362	249	147	15	773	58
11	449	281	172	41	943	80
12	442	324	100	10	876	97
(1971)						
1	531	331	151	16	1029	84
2	420	301	144	26	891	49
3	616	445	194	19	1274	103
4	501	324	117	5	948	86
5	513	323	163	10	1009	26
6	675	282	549	3	1509	71
7	573	276	601	8	1458	78
8	625	194	507	19	1345	33
9	520	248	134	10	912	59
10	654	246	209	9	1118	23
11	640	349	218	4	1211	77
12	632	328	176	15	1151	58
(1972)						
1	642	326	244	9	1221	94
2	638	298	332	4	1272	59

TABLE IV

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE PORTOLA BRANCH, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month (1970)	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Recreation	Total	Requests
7	1108	393	843	16	2360	62
8	901	371	541	16	1829	80
9	801	419	277	6	1503	58
10	771	409	237	16	1433	47
11	940	416	280	15	1651	102
12	893	397	252	21	1563	24
(1971)						
1	964	389	204	4	1561	74
2	969	439	207	15	1630	76
3	1165	610	309	22	2104	111
4	1227	383	380	32	2022	85
5	1066	418	285	25	1794	55
6	1108	408	1059	16	2591	94
7	955	381	955	21	2312	64
8	1047	378	730	24	2179	65
9	1033	361	298	8	1700	72
10	891	333	213	12	1449	87
11	936	444	268	21	1770	76
12	936	384	257	9	1644	76
(1972)						
1	1119	418	286	29	1752	107
2	936	385	266	29	1618	112

TABLE V

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE BECKWOURTH CHARGE, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO MARCH, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Total	Requests
(1970)					
7	28	39	58	125	
8	45	51	51	147	
9	33	32	9	74	
10	29	28	7	64	
11	43	43	5	91	
12	25	35	10	70	
(1971)					
1	40	36	9	85	
2	6	31	4	41	
3	35	39	9	83	
4	32	33	9	74	
5	32	37	9	78	
6	30	36	30	96	
7	23	32	53	108	
8	41	27	8	76	
9	29	26	5	60	
10	35	36	9	80	
11	28	25	9	62	
12	25	30	11	66	
(1972)					
1	26	34	6	66	
2	40	31	10	81	
3	32	42	11	85	

TABLE VI

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE BELDEN CHARGE, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO MARCH, 1972

Month (1970)	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Total	Requests
7	100	82	183	33
8	95	72	167	5
9	104	80	184	39
10	75	68	143	
11	79	77	156	16
12	106	74	180	38
(1971)				
1	145	70	215	33
2	107	57	164	30
3	122	70	192	29
4	126	85	211	3
5	111	66	177	18
6	104	81	185	26
7	90	77	167	15
8	96	72	168	28
9	130	84	214	25
10	66	53	119	37
11	57	52	109	12
12	125	63	188	24
(1972)				
1	89	61	150	33
2	134	109	243	111
3	130	154	284	20

TABLE VII

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE CHILCOOT CHARGE, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month (1970)	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Total	Requests
7	8		26	34	4
8	6	2	15	23	
9	4	4	7	15	
10	10			10	4
11	3	1	15	19	7
12	10		6	16	5
(1971)					
1	5	6	9	21	
2	9	1	10	20	
3	5	1	10	16	2
4	5	3	6	14	
5	4	5	16	25	2
6	14	2	26	42	
7	4	2	13	19	
8					
9	21		15	36	
10	1		16	17	
11	1	3	8	12	1
12	3		14	17	
(1972)					
1	5		7	11	2
2	5		12	17	3

TABLE VIII

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE LA PORTE CHARGE, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

MONTH	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Total	Requests
(1970)				
7	17		17	1
8	1	5	6	1
9	1	8	9	
10	16		16	
11	4		4	
12				
(1971)				
1	4		4	
2		3	3	
3	1	3	4	
4		8	8	
5				
6				
7	3		3	1
8	1		1	
9	7		7	
10	5		5	
11	6		6	
12	3	1	4	
(1972)				
1	5		5	
2	5		5	

TABLE IX

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE STORRIE CHARGE, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Total	Requests
(1970)					
7	24	17	19	60	7
8	12	12	9	33	
9	15	23	13	51	8
10	33	18	13	64	
11	17	16	9	42	4
12	8	13	16	37	2
(1971)					
1	13	14	9	36	
2	17	19	11	47	
3	10	22	19	51	3
4	10	14	9	33	5
5	12	13	10	35	3
6	12	9	21	42	
7	18	14	18	50	
8	19	12	11	42	
9	15	9	17	41	4
10	20	9	21	50	
11	20	9	28	57	5
12	20	8	24	52	1
(1972)					
1	22	8	30	60	6
2	22	13	36	71	

TABLE X

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE TAYLORSVILLE CHARGE, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Total	Requests
(1970)					
7	202	20	121	343	54
8	223	17	116	356	11
9	197	29	34	260	6
10	215	20	26	261	7
11	217	19	53	289	48
12	179	30	55	264	21
(1971)					
1	210	23	59	292	26
2	165	20	32	217	40
3	245	31	58	334	7
4	190	31	11	338	32
5	160	25	25	210	10
6	180	47	135	362	7
7	179	16	96	291	16
8	188	25	111	324	18
9	196	28	69	293	11
10	146	19	39	204	28
11	164	51	40	255	16
12	229	80	33	342	10
(1972)					
1	166	32	62	260	52
2	143	44	49	236	48

TABLE XI

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE VINTON CHARGE, PLUMAS COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Total	Requests
(1970)					
7	26	33	75	134	
8	20	33	29	82	
9	13	21	15	59	
10	7	31	21	49	
11	11	30	17	58	1
12	10	31	25	66	2
(1971)					
1	18	33	24	75	
2	13	29	24	66	1
3	19	35	23	77	
4	28	39	24	91	1
5	31	40	41	112	1
6	31	46	48	125	
7	19	36	37	82	
8	26	33	24	83	3
9	21	52	24	97	
10	19	49	30	98	
11	19	36	25	80	
12	10	24	17	51	
(1972)					
1	17	33	21	71	
2	17	52	23	92	2

TABLE XII

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE ALLEGHENY CHARGE, SIERRA COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Total	Requests
(1970)					
7	25	24	30	79	32
8	31	25	19	75	39
9	42	24	18	84	37
10	49	12	13	74	4
11	46	2	5	53	
12	38		10	48	
(1971)					
1	68	6	12	86	
2	40	3	37	80	1
3	66		28	94	
4	65		29	94	
5	86		25	111	
6	89	12	21	122	
7	38	22	17	77	
8	44	16	22	82	
9	27	10		37	
10	28		32	60	
11	60		31	91	2
12	43	17	27	87	5
(1972)					
1	68	13	22	103	
2	69		42	111	1

TABLE XIII

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE CALPINE CHARGE, SIERRA COUNTY, FROM DECEMBER, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Total	Requests
(1970)					
12		2		2	
(1971)					
1		4	5	9	
2	5	6		11	2
3	10	9		19	2
4	3	6		9	5
5	25	10		35	2
6	58	24		82	3
7	53	7		60	1
8	25			25	
9	19	4		23	
10	31	6		37	1
11	1	5	31	37	1
12	3		27	30	1
(1972)					
1	15	5	20	40	6
2	17		36	53	8

TABLE XIV

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE DOWNIEVILLE CHARGE, SIERRA COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Recreation	Total	Requests
(1970)						
7	406	31	77		521	34
8	342	39	60		448	28
9	401	40	23		467	38
10	380	33	26		441	47
11	311	29	29		373	27
12	382	33	51		472	19
(1971)						
1	343	40	53		442	41
2	312	36	41		392	51
3	342	38	58		441	47
4	382	47	64		502	30
5	376	57	17		537	37
6	398	41	6		555	47
7	425	53	153	5	636	29
8	415	47	135	7	604	42
9	433	60	132	5	630	33
10	384	42	87	3	516	35
11	355	44	78	2	479	34
12	418	48	94	3	563	21
(1972)						
1	380	43	86	2	511	29
2	377	50	85	3	515	76

TABLE XV

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE SIERRA CITY CHARGE, SIERRA COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month (1970)	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Total	Requests
7	95	43	34	172	35
8	70	29	15	105	28
9	67	29		96	16
10	49	17		66	1
11	41	8	29	78	13
12	37	19	19	75	9
(1971)					
1	45	16	13	74	18
2	38	11	15	64	5
3	32	7	8	47	3
4	42	12	19	73	6
5	53	20	21	94	8
6	55	28	19	109	20
7	92	19	37	148	50
8	147	31	40	218	24
9	71	16	14	101	16
10	97	17		78	7
11	72	11	9	92	4
12	65	13		93	11
(1972)					
1	64	18	11	93	20
2	68	9	5	82	10

TABLE XVI

CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE SIERRAVILLE CHARGE, SIERRA COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO FEBRUARY, 1972

Month (1970)	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Total	Requests
7	5	18	94	117	1
8	6	10	35	51	4
9	5	15	6	26	6
10	11	15	6	32	6
11	2	14	3	19	6
12	5	12	7	24	
(1971)					
1	8	6	6	20	
2	4	15	6	25	9
3	5	16	15	36	2
4	3	23	3	29	2
5	4	11	4	19	7
6	1	5	66	72	27
7	5	6	30	41	4
8	5	6	27	38	10
9	4	15		19	
10	1	17	8	26	3
11	3	16	7	26	2
12	22	27	2	51	2
(1972)					
1	2	49	2	53	1
2	13	36	2	51	3

TABLE XVII

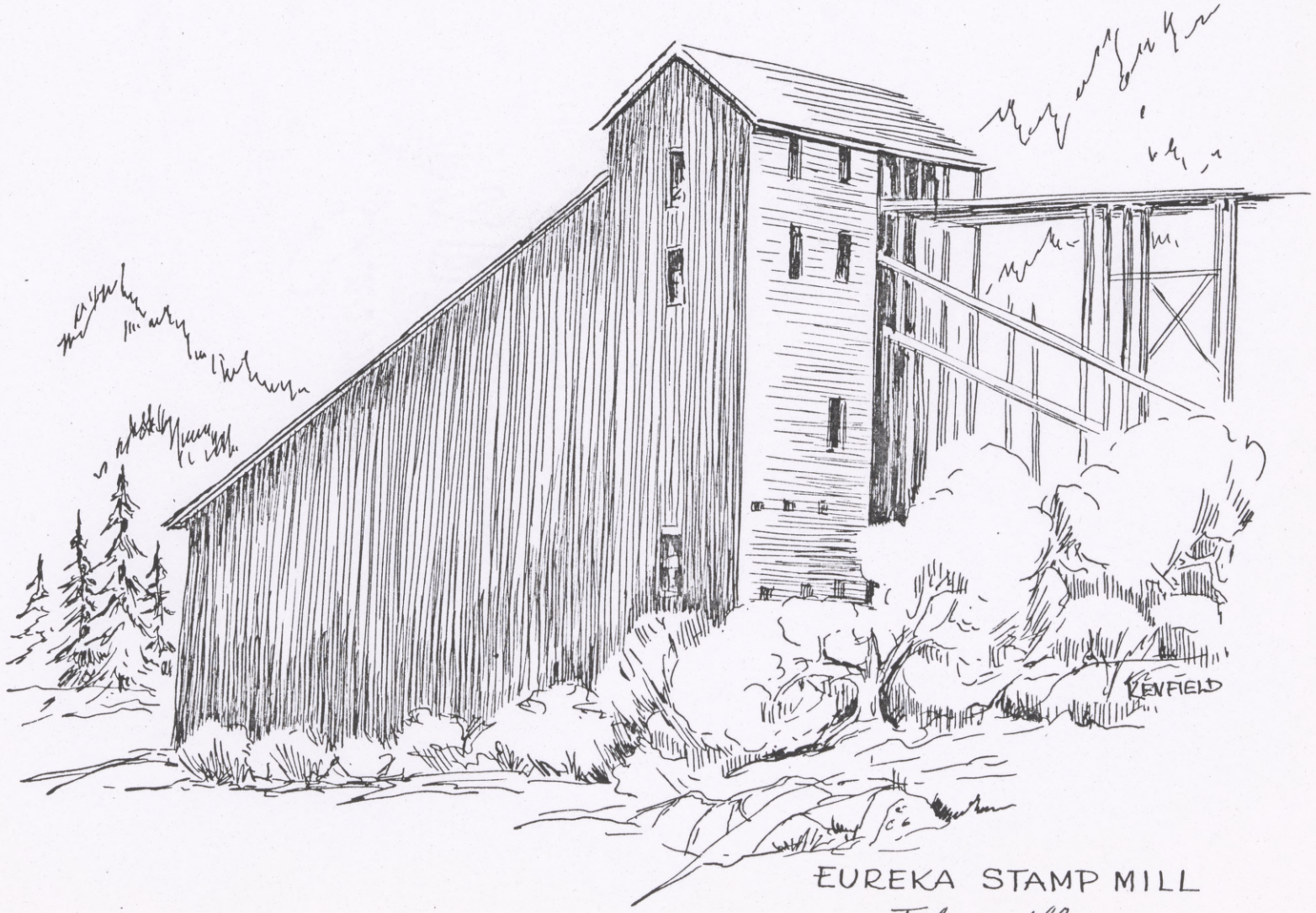
CIRCULATION RECORDS FOR THE LOYALTON BRANCH, SIERRA COUNTY, FROM JULY, 1970 TO MARCH, 1972

Month	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Juvenile	Recreation	Total	Requests
(1970)						
7	226	79	396	2	703	20
8	221	108	254		583	31
9	223	69	162		454	31
10	274	79	135	5	493	26
11	253	81	236	2	572	32
12	185	78	156		419	19
(1971)						
1	211	112	192	2	517	27
2	206	87	186		479	21
3	213	101	287		601	25
4	188	117	306		611	15
5	181	167	271	1	620	23
6	209	102	328		639	8
7	269	117	491		877	27
8	277	127	380	2	786	40
9	282	114	132	2	530	34
10	170	58	92		340	25
11	282	108	169		559	13
12	174	69	108		351	16
(1972)						
1	237	106	204		547	19
2	218	94	156	6	474	30
3	290	102	150		542	34



ORIGINAL SUMMIT SCHOOL
Sierra Valley

ORIGINAL SUMMIT SCHOOL



EUREKA STAMP MILL
Johnsville



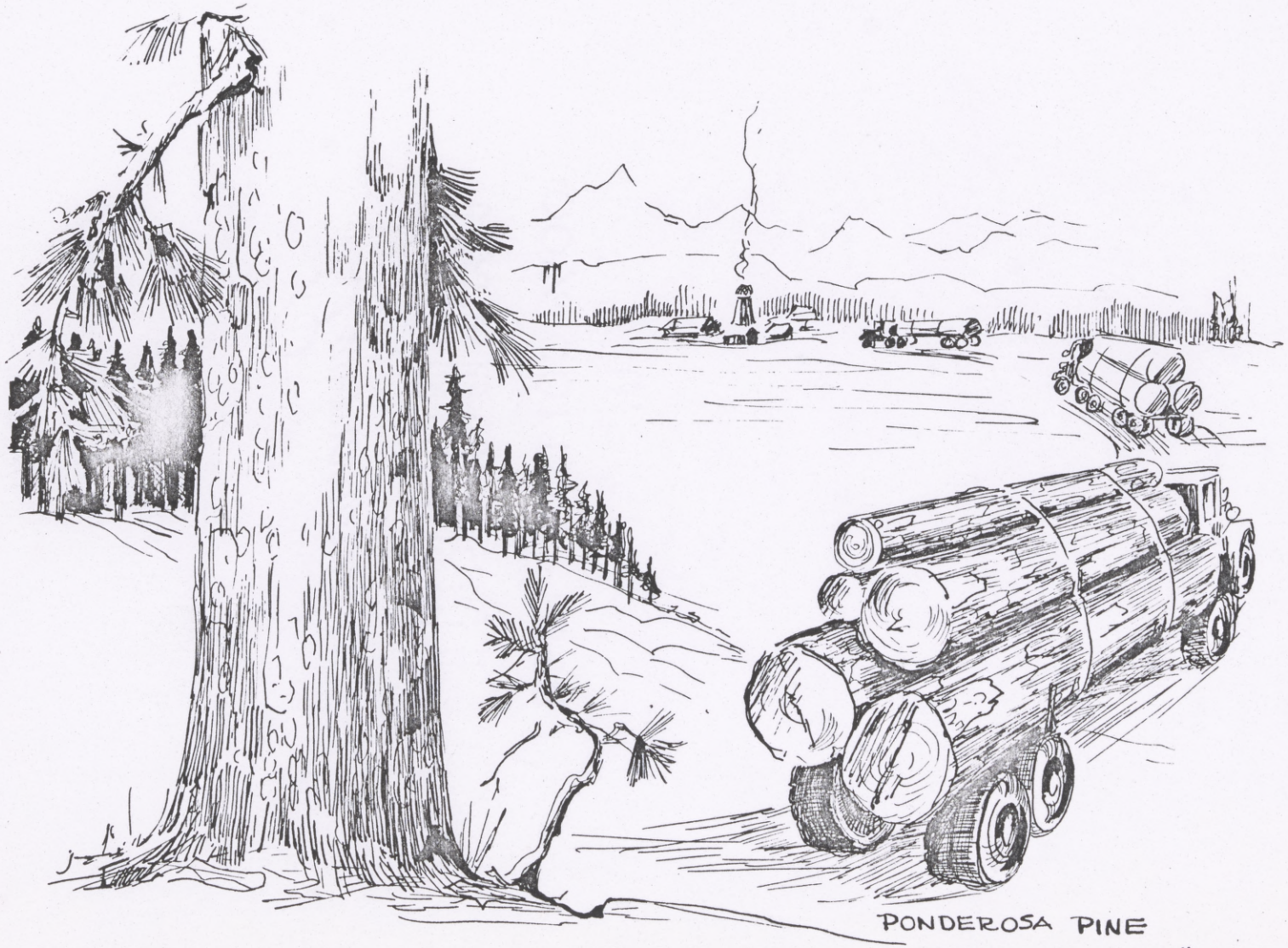


TREE FARM

"Tannenbaum" gold

KENFIELD



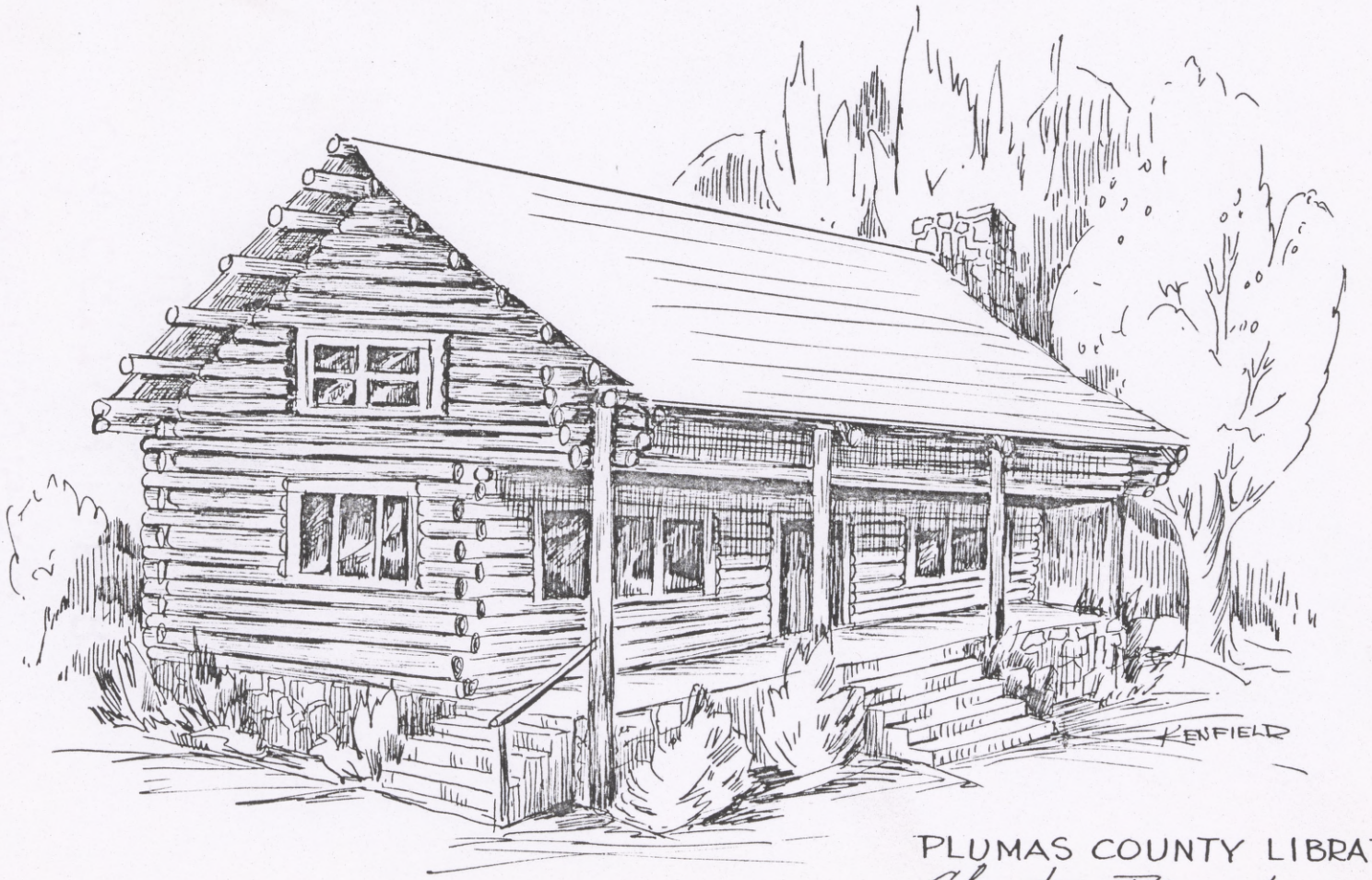


PONDEROSA PINE

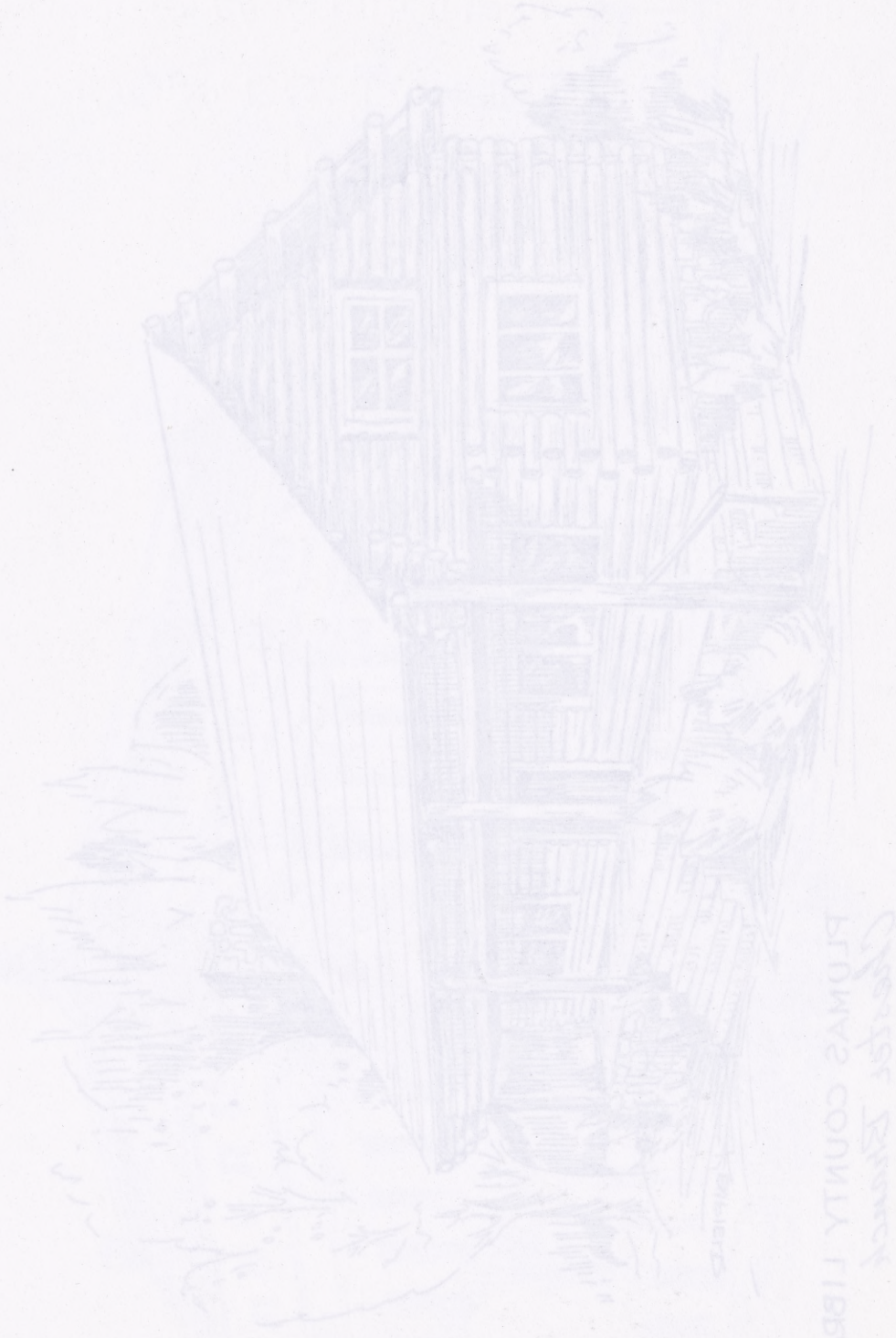
"golden harvest" KENFIELD



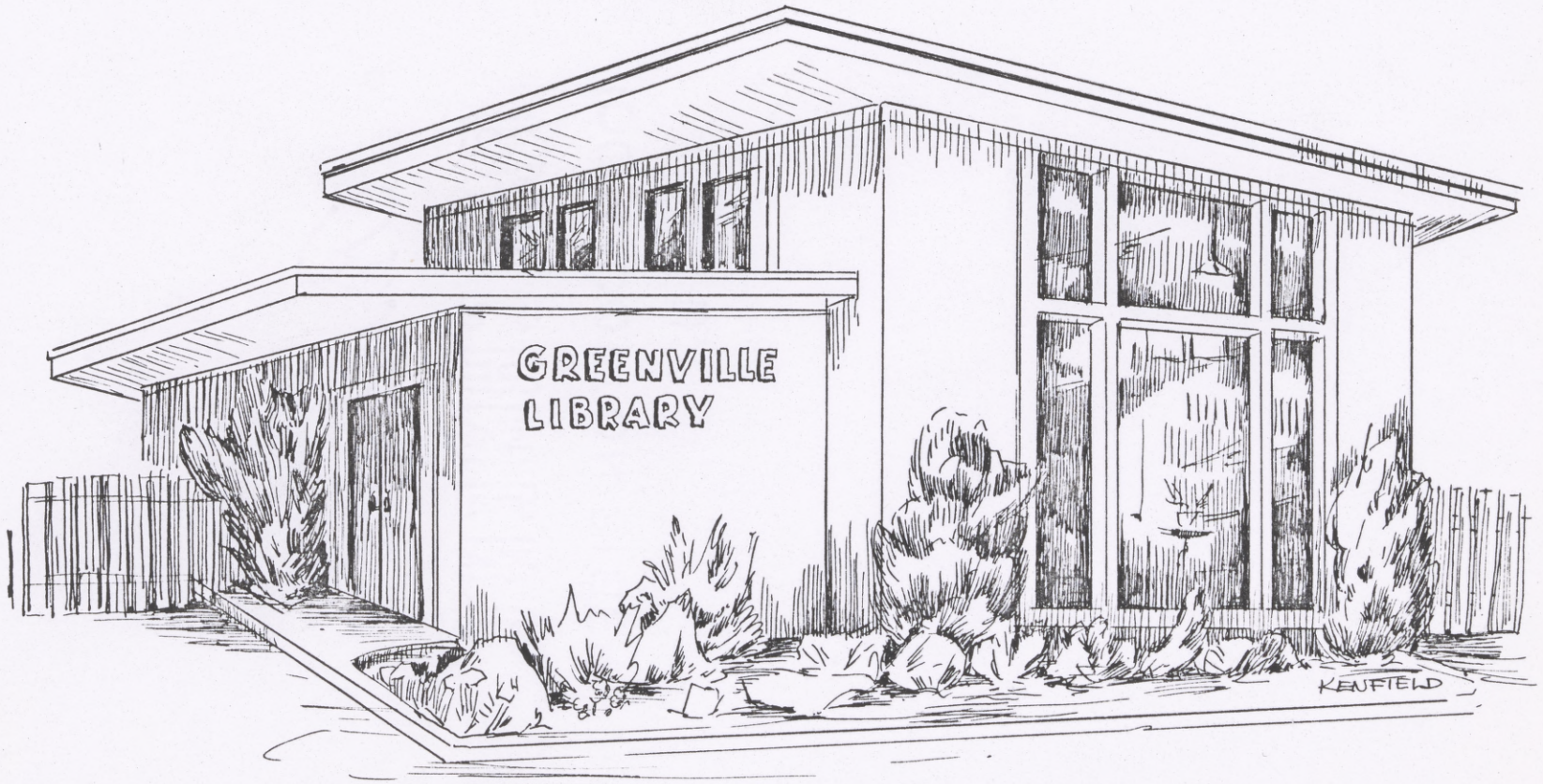
PLUMAS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
Quincy Main Branch Library



PLUMAS COUNTY LIBRARY
Chester Branch

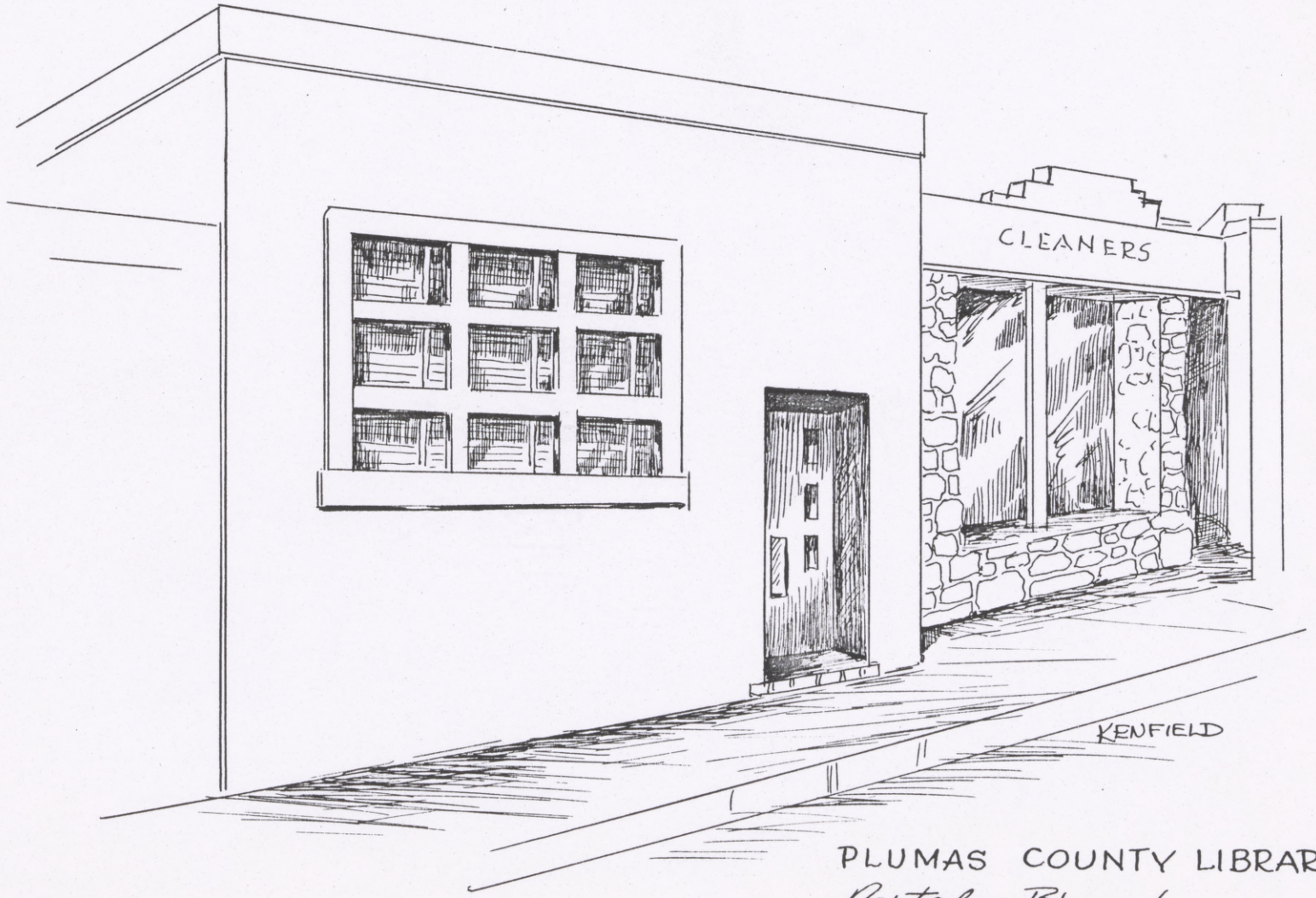


Property of
Flagler County Public Library



PLUMAS COUNTY LIBRARY
Greenville Branch

Orchard Lake
Pontiac



PLUMAS COUNTY LIBRARY
Portola Branch

PRAIRIE VILLAGE
JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY



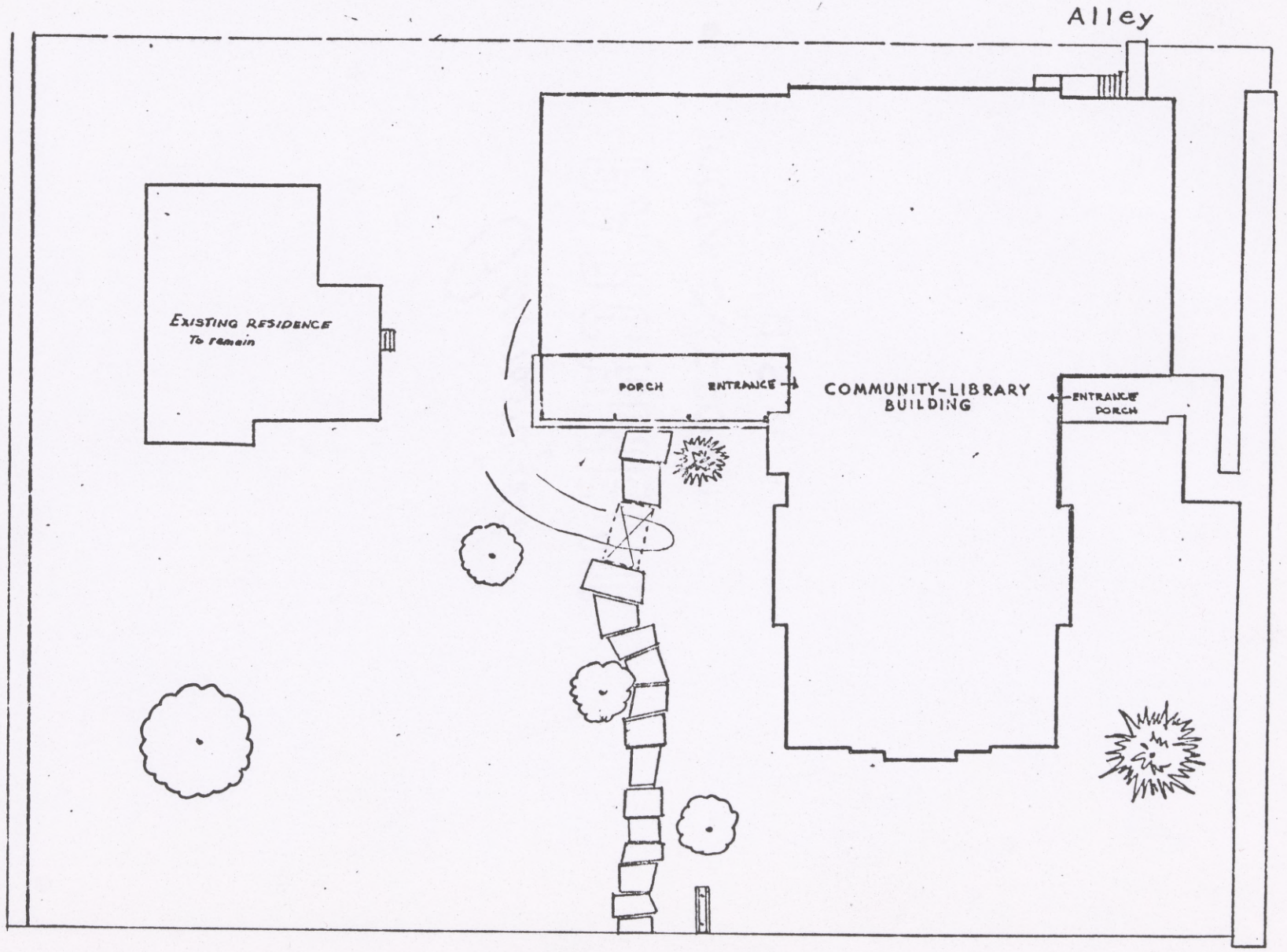
PLUMAS COUNTY LIBRARY

Taylorsville Charge

Plans for new Plumas County

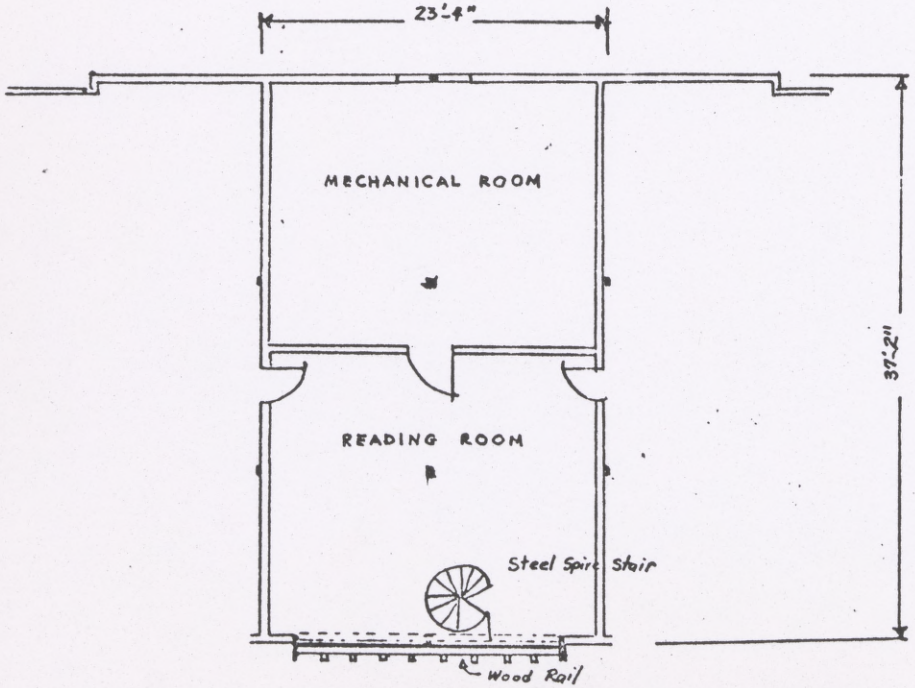
Library, Main Branch, Quincy;

Under Construction

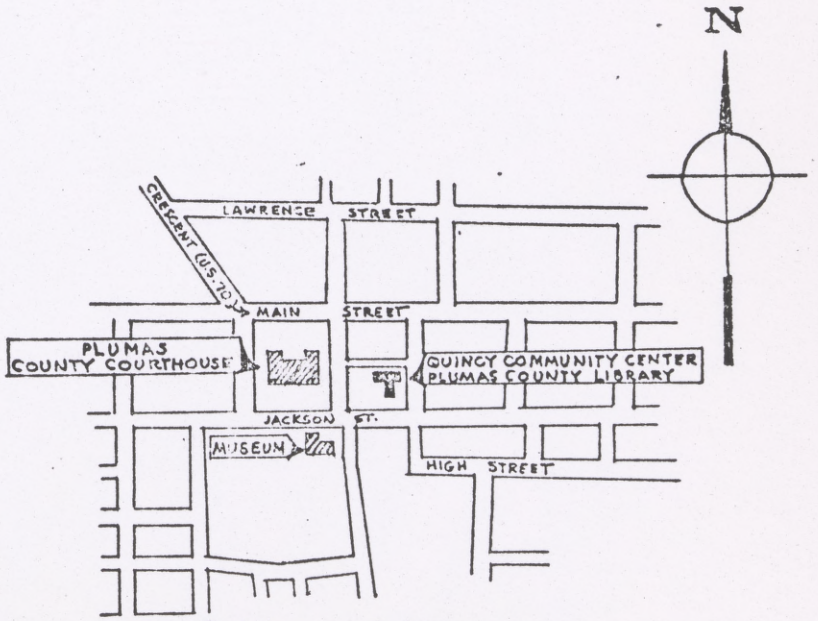

Alley
EXISTING RESIDENCE
To remain
PORCH
ENTRANCE
COMMUNITY-LIBRARY
BUILDING
ENTRANCE
PORCH
Bradley Street
Harbison Avenue
Jackson Street

PLOT · PLAN

Permuga
PARCHMENT
100% COTTON FIBER
U.S.A.

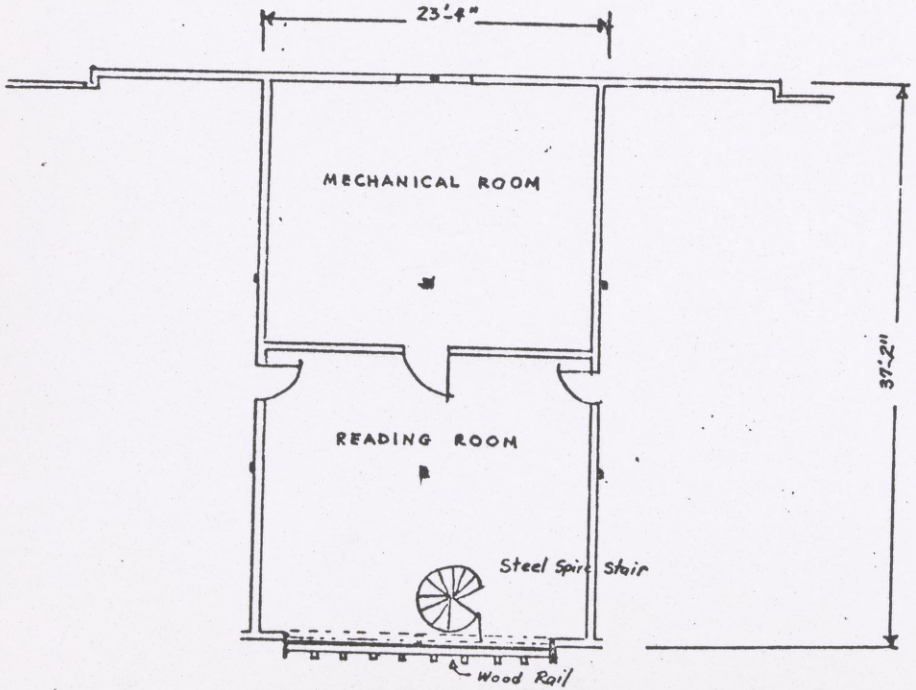


MEZZANINE FLOOR

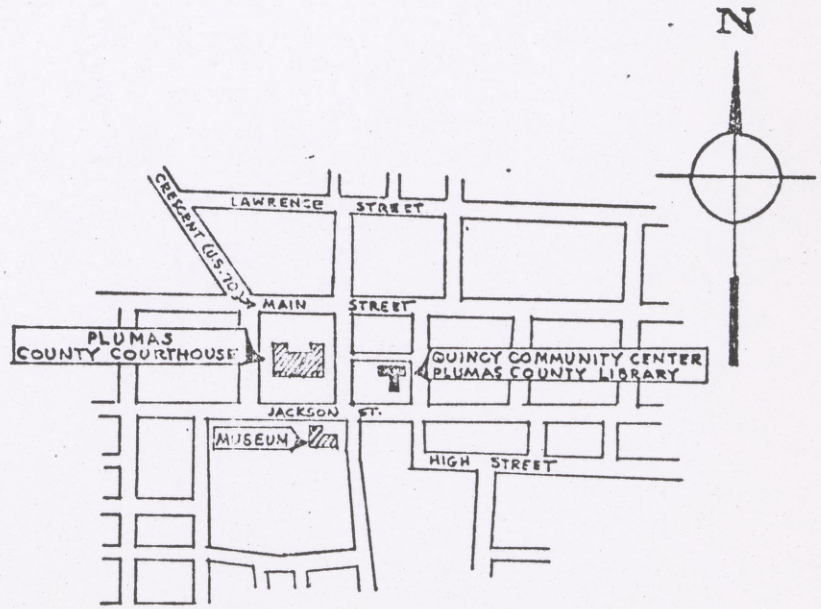


Site Map

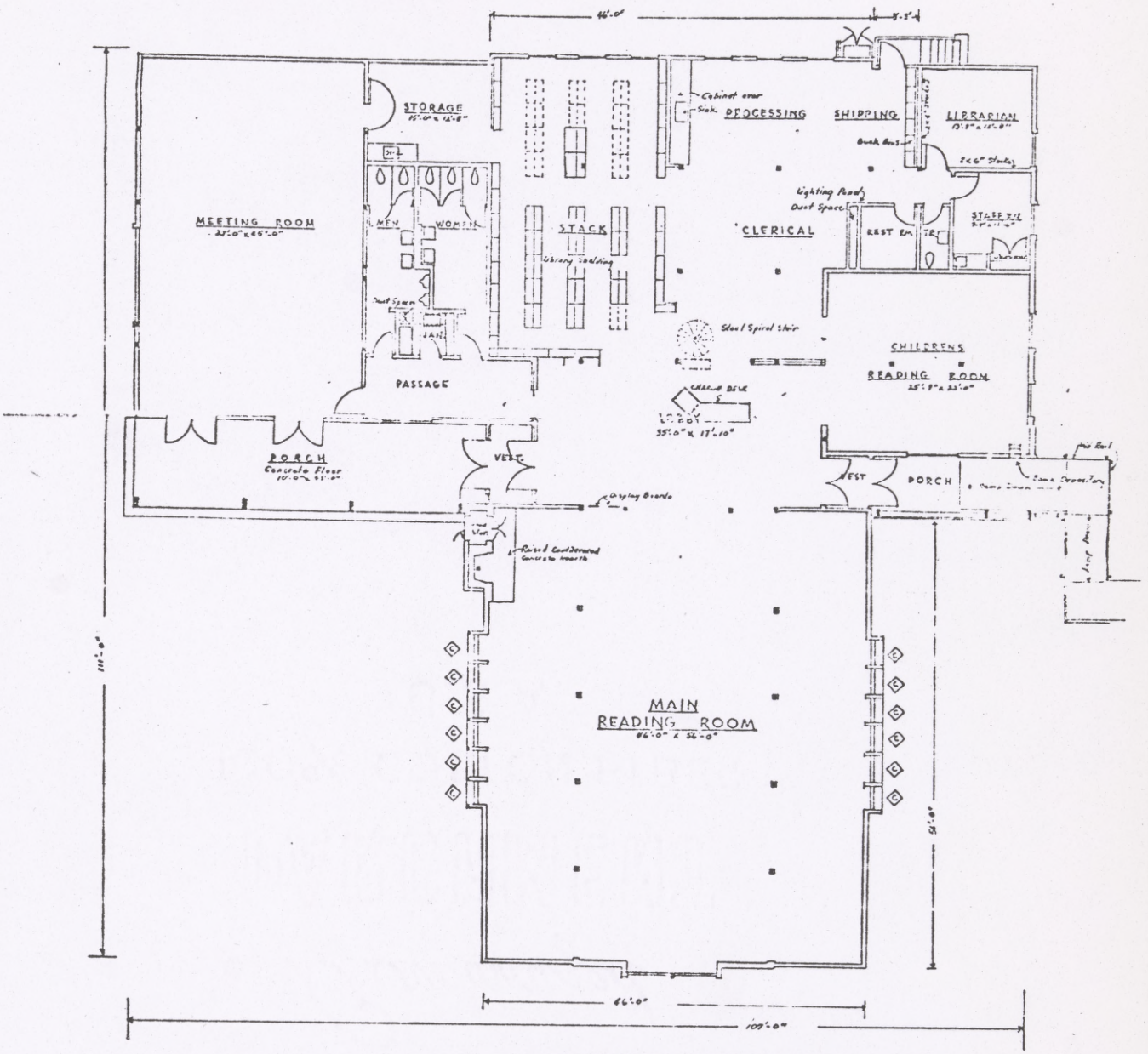
Permanent
PARCHMENT
100% COTTON FIBER
U.S.A.



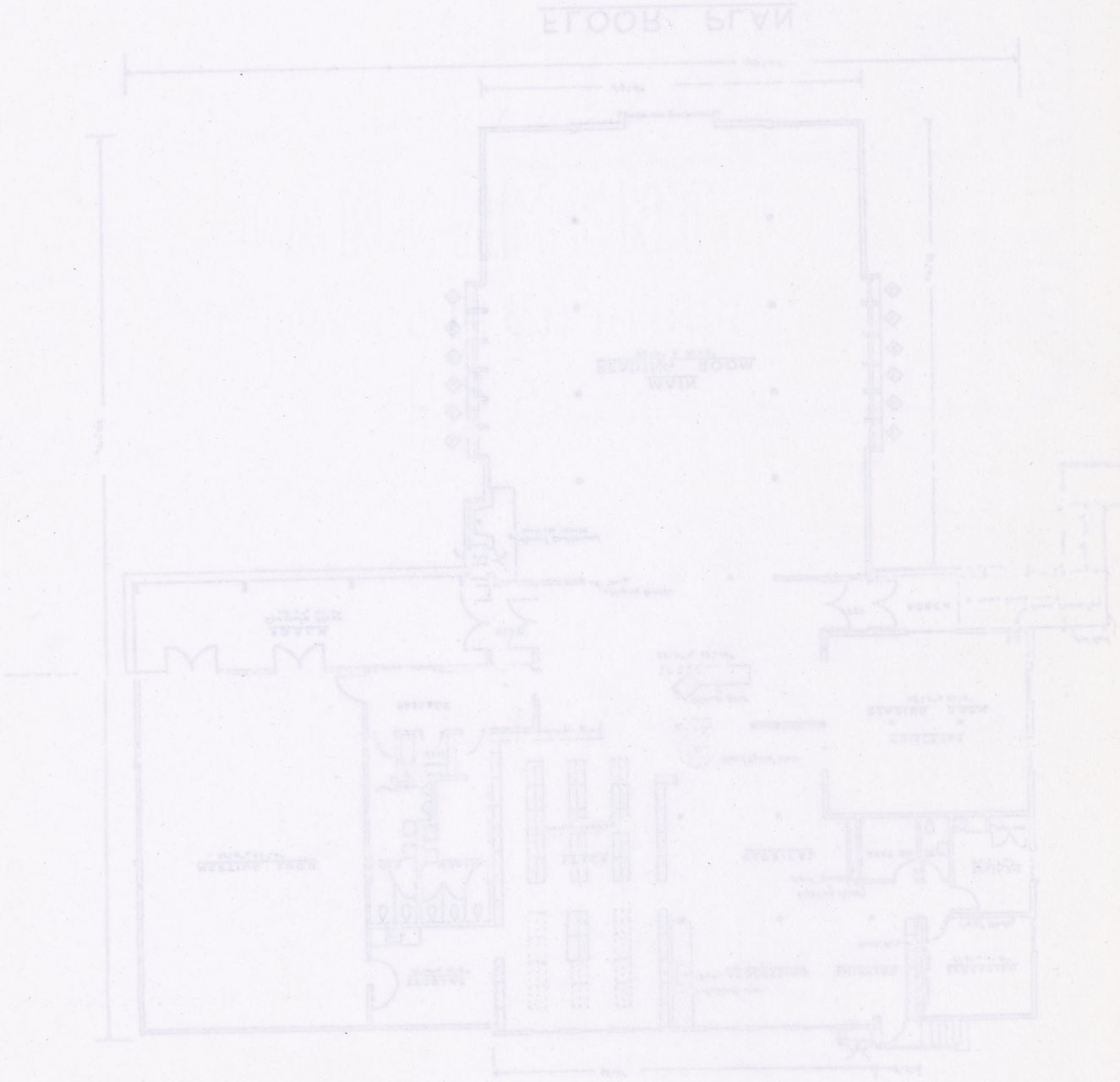
MEZZANINE FLOOR

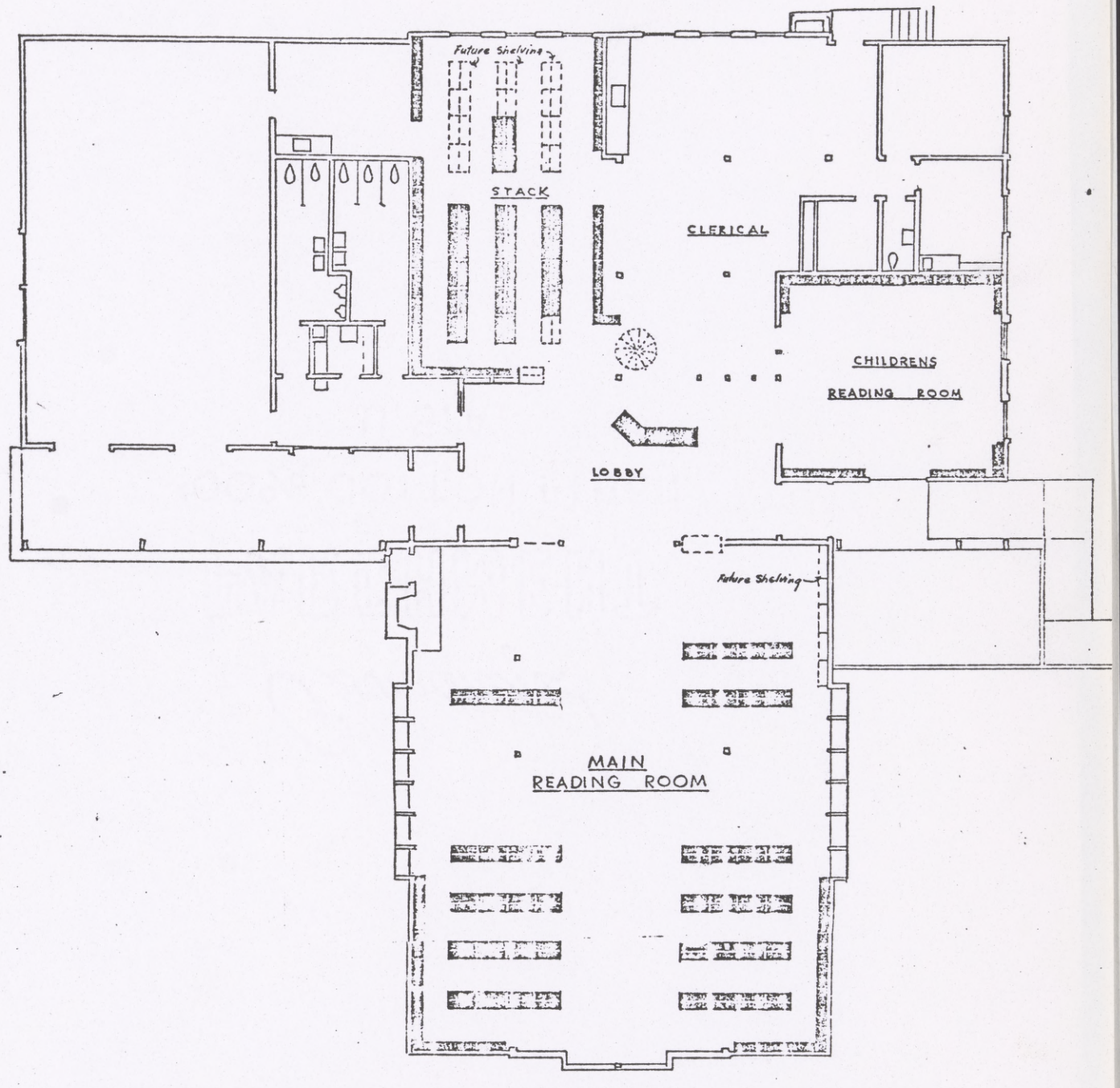


Site Map

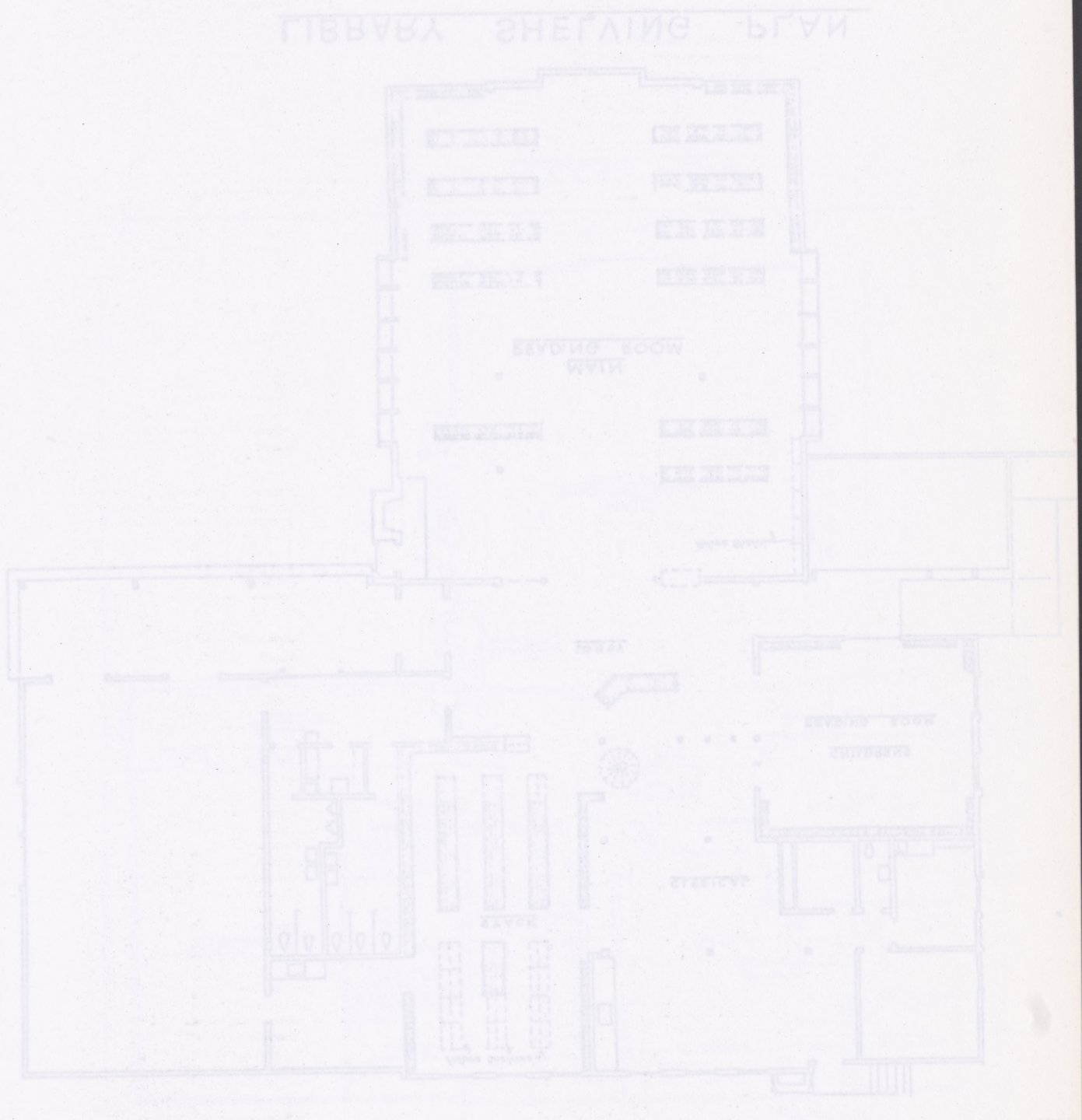

STORAGE
MEETING ROOM
MEN
WOMEN
JAN.
PASSAGE
STACK
Cabinet over Sink
PROCESSING
SHIPPING
LIBRARIAN
CLERICAL
REST RM.
Lighting Ready Duct Space
Steel Spiral Stair
CHILDRENS READING ROOM
35'-0" x 17'-10"
PORCH
Concrete Floor
VEST
Drying Boards
Raised Cast Ground
MAIN READING ROOM
86'-0" x 52'-0"
111'-0"
52'-0"
86'-0"
109'-0"

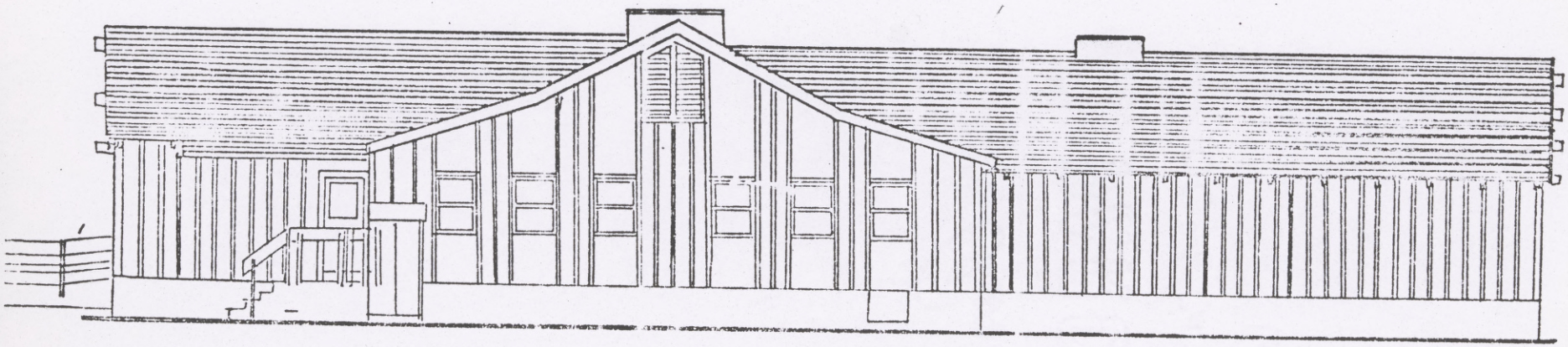
FLOOR PLAN



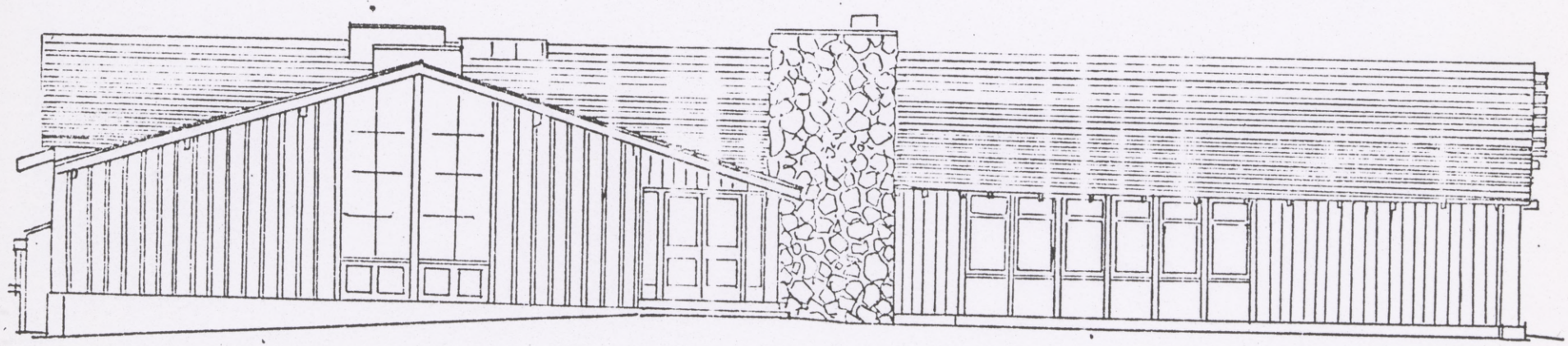


LIBRARY SHELVING PLAN





NORTH



WEST

ELEVATIONS

WEST

NORTH